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Johnson, R.E.

1968 (Part)

Journal

calif



I. Winter - Spring 1968-68

Berkeley Area - Jan 13, 14 & 27, 1968

Rosy Finch collecting

Peavine Mtn. March 9-11

So. Lassen Co. March 12, 19-20

Bodie March 20-21

Southern California

Death Valley March 23-24

Newport Harbor March 25, 27

White Mtns. April 12-14

Livermore May 3

II. Montana Rosy Finch Collecting Trip - Summer 1968  
July 27 - Sept. 23, 1968

III Winter 1968-69

Peavine Mtn Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 1968

Bodie Nov. 20 - 24, 68

Colorado Jan. 24 - Feb. 11, 69

Peavine Mtn Feb. 14 - 16, 69

Colorado March 16 - 27, 69

Peavine & Squaw Pk April 11-13, 69





# Journal

2

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Jan. 13

Tilden Regional Park, Alameda Co., California  
cloudy, cool, breeze from south, ground moist from rain the preceeding night. Jenny Meux & I hiked over a portion of the area around Play field & Jewel Lake where Zoo 107 field trips are held. Species seen:

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - common

Hutton Vireo - a little less common than the Kinglets but still common and in same bushes and trees.

Brown Towhee

Spotted Towhee

Oregon Junco

Scrub Jay

Steller Jay

Anna's Hummingbird

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Plain Titmouse - little singing

Wren-tit - occasional song

Bewick Wren - buzz

California Quail - song

Glaucous-winged Gull - 30+ circle high above.

Hermit Thrush

Song Sparrow

Fox Sparrow

Mockingbird

Audubon Warbler - many flycatching over lake

Coot - one





# Journal

3

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Jan. 13

Tilden Regional Park, Alameda Co., California (cont.)

Scaup, sp? - 2

Ruddy Duck - one diving in Jewel Lake

Red-tailed Hawk

Jan. 14

Strawberry Canyon, Alameda Co., California

Light to heavy rain falling, visibility variable - 100yds to several miles. 3-5:30 PM. Hiked <sup>east</sup> up paved rd. just north of Botanic Garden until it dead ends, then <sup>north</sup> cross country to ridge top and east to dirt graded road. Followed this generally south around head of Strawberry Canyon to paved rd, then cross country <sup>north</sup> down into Strawberry Canyon bottom to connect with dirt road along south margin of Botanic Garden. Habitat is patchy with stands of coyote bush, Eucalyptus, Cypress, & pine. Birds seen:

Bush-tit - ~~large~~ Flock of 50 fly from coyote bushes into Eucalyptus (Blue Gum) trees & feed around Eucalyptus flowers.

Wren-tit

Red-tailed Hawk

Spotted Towhee - on ground & in Eucalyptus, lower <sup>limbs</sup>

Brown Towhee " " "

Oregon Junco - coyote bush, Eucalyptus, grassland

Anna Hummingbird - diving & singing

Bewick Wren

Chestnut-backed Chickadee - in coyote bush

Red-shafted Flicker



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Jan. 14 Strawberry Canyon, Alameda Co., California (cont.)

Pine Siskin

Song Sparrow - in Eucalyptus

Golden-crowned Sparrow

Jan. 27 Tilden Regional Park, Alameda Co., California

I drove to the "playfield" area (near "pony ride") of the park, with Jenny Meux, leaving Berkeley at 7:15 AM. Light rain was falling & the sky was dark with clouds. The rain turned to snow by 8:30 and the ground had a uniform one inch deep snow layer by 10 AM. Previous to the snow many birds were feeding together in the center of the large grass (mowed) field. These included Brown Towhee, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow & Oregon Junco in a mixed loose group of  $40 \pm$ , and lone Robins scattered widely. Once the snow began these birds were no longer seen, but I was not present at the moment of the departure so that I could not tell if they responded to ① falling snow ② snow depth covering food, or ③ other ~~some~~ stimuli. All birds seen during the snowstorm were in bushes & trees protected from the direct effects of the weather. Anna's Hummingbirds, which are normally common in the area were not seen during the rain or snow storm, but one was sitting on a perch & singing ~~but~~ at mid-day when the temperature had risen and the precipitation had temporarily stopped.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Jan. 27 Tilden Regional Park, Alameda Co., California (cont.)

Species seen:

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - calling with short hoarse  
short churr from willows along the edge of the  
lawn.

Brown Towhee } <sup>snow free</sup> scratching on ground under trees during  
                                snow storm  
Golden-crowned Sparrow } in loose aggregation on lawn during  
                                                rain  
                                                } with Brown Towhees on lawn  
                                                        during rain

Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow } - also under trees <sup>during snow storm</sup> feeding & scratching

Oregon Junco

Robin - lone individuals widely scattered on  
lawn

Scrub Jay

Valley Quail - <sup>several</sup> along margin of lawn during  
rain storm. Heard occasionally  
throughout morning

Varied Thrush - one on ground at lawn -  
conifer margin.

Bewick's Wren } in bushes & lower <sup>oak</sup> limbs during snow  
                                storm  
Wren-tit

Hutton's Vireo

Chestnut-backed Chickadee - several } together in oak  
Plain Titmouse - two } foliage & twigs  
                                                (not in tree tops)  
                                                during snow storm

Hermit Thrush - forages on ground under oaks  
& laurel in leaves <sup>during snow storm</sup>, but rarely scratches with  
feet. Walks or runs & pecks quickly.



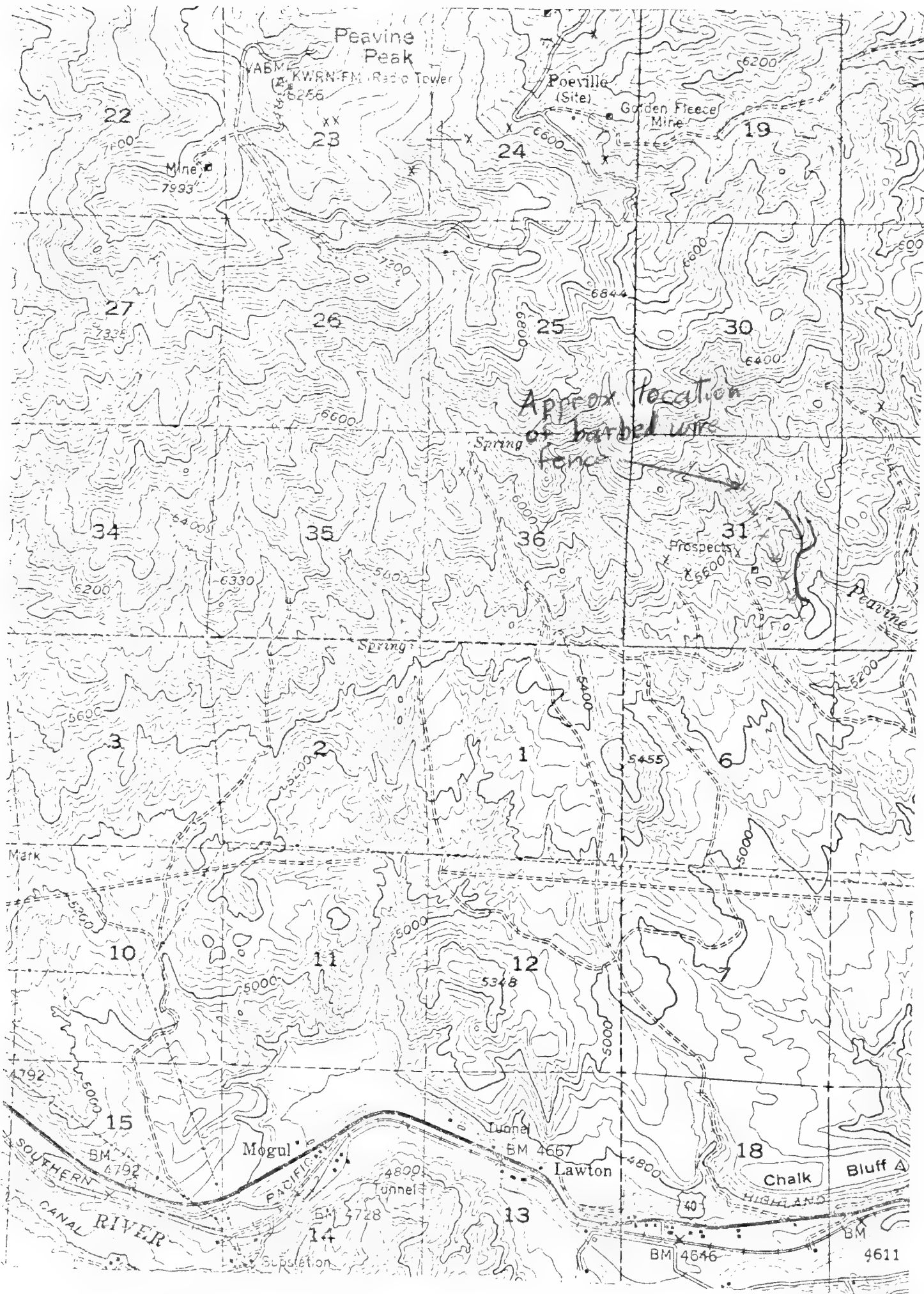


# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 9 Berkeley to Reno, Nevada

After considerable wheel-spinning, I finally got away from Berkeley around 2 PM. My car door only flew open 6 times on the freeway between Berkeley & Davis. ~~At~~ At that point I stopped & performed major surgery on the door. I arrived at Reno after dark and immediately drove west out of town on 7th St. (3 blocks north of US 40 or Interstate 80) to the southeast base of Peavine Mtn where Dr. Ned K. Johnson, John Spencer and others had observed rosy finches in mine shafts many times in the past. The city appeared to have moved westwards a considerable distance, altering the course of the road from that shown on the 1951 topographic map (Reno Quad, 15 min.). The road splits near a large concrete domed water tank. I took the right (uphill) branch & followed this to end - a large bulldozed area. Many less obvious roads had branched off from this one and another continued beyond the NW edge of the bulldozed area. With this general orientation I returned to Reno & called John Spencer (Phone: 322-1888; 1640 The Strand, Reno) to obtain further information as to the exact location of the shafts. He volunteered to meet me the next morning at his house and direct me to the area. Following the phone call I dashed to Squaw Valley to Ice skate from 8:30 to 10:00 PM & then



Red = route followed early on March 10

A detailed topographic map of the Reno, Nevada area. The map features contour lines indicating elevation, with major peaks like Peavine Peak labeled. Key locations include Anderson, Martin, Black Springs, Panther, and the city of Reno. Infrastructure such as the Pacific Railroad, Skyline Airfield, Highland Reservoir, and various highways are shown. Handwritten annotations include "From: Reno Quadrangle 15 min. series 1951" at the top left and "Approx. Routes Followed" with arrows pointing towards Peavine Peak and other mountainous regions. Numerous spot elevations and benchmark numbers (BM) are scattered throughout the terrain. The map also shows the Southern Canal River and several smaller creeks and springs.





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 9 Berkeley to Reno, Nevada

returned to Reno & the bulldozed area to camp.  
A beautiful, clear night & great view of the Reno lights.

March 10 Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada

Up & on the move at 7:30AM exploring the road beyond the bulldozed area. The road divides several times. I explored those roads to the right (east) of the barbed wire fence (the fence runs NS up the mtn along a ridge). One road runs NS beside the fence (on the east side of the fence) but there are no signs of mining visible along it so exploration of it was deferred in preference for two other roads, one leading up the next ridge to the east and another running a short ways up a creek just east of this ridge. On the ridge there is a a clump of 6 or 7 Jeffrey Pine trees & among them is a leveled area (appears to be an old cabin site) and a short <sup>20 ft.</sup> horizontal mine shaft. From further up this ridge one can see into the creek below (right or east) and on it is a large mine dump part way to its headwaters. Next I followed the afore mentioned road in that canyon but it only goes a short ways, ending at a spot where people have left considerable human waste (ie. trash). Oh, for the joys of "civilization". Prospect holes visible on the east slope of this canyon do not have vertical shafts where rosey finches might roost. A spring issues from



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 10

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

what appears to be a caved in horizontal mine shaft near roads end. a few scrubby leafless trees occur along the creek bottom & in these were seen W.C. Sparrows & Rufous-Sided Towhees. Mtn. Bluebirds & Oregon Juncos had been seen in the previously mentioned pine trees.

I returned to town & met John Spencer at 9:30 AM. After examining topo maps & discussing other pertinent matters we departed again for Peavine Mtn. We attempted a slightly different approach in hopes of getting a little closer by car to the specific shafts he had in mind than I had been before, however new fences, plus mud holes prevented us from actually accomplishing this. Our route was to again follow the road to the right past the water tank but then to turn off to the left & follow this road westward beyond the bulldozed area which is now uphill on the right. Due to the previously mentioned fence & mudholes we had to travel cross country over sagebrush with the VW bus in order to shuttle between useable sections of road. We finally did pass the bulldozed area & head uphill (north) on another road but squished to a stop in the mud. We walked up this road ~~by~~ past a marshy area created by a small earth-fill





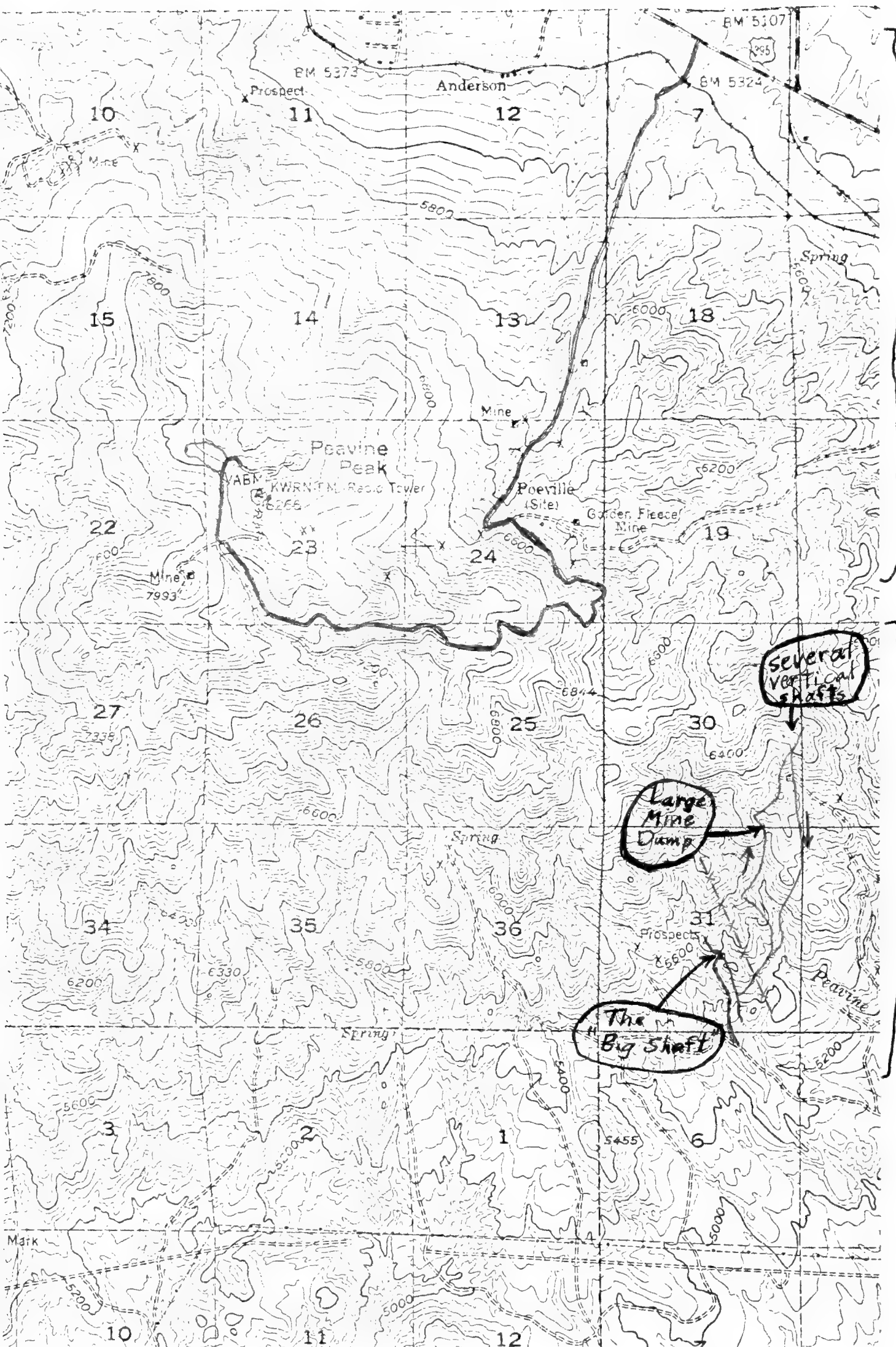
Copies of Dr. Na Johnson's snapshots of  
the "big snail" where rope ladders had been  
located. The scenery remains the same today  
but the large timbers framing the shaft are gone.

## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 10

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)  
 dam made of mine dump materials, <sup>past a road to the rt.,</sup> and along  
 the east slope of a hill until the road curved  
~~to~~ right around the hill to a large vertical  
 mine shaft <sup>(hereafter called the "big shaft")</sup> & mine dump. This is the  
 location where most of the finches had been  
 seen in 1950-54. Some of the birds were  
 collected and are now in the collection at  
 the Univ. of Nevada. Dr. Johnson had  
 estimated that approx. 100 birds roosted in  
 this shaft each night. Though occasional birds  
 had been seen there in the day, the birds were  
 usually absent until approx. 3:30 PM when  
 they suddenly appeared high over head <sup>coming from the N</sup> & dove  
 directly into the shaft. ~~They~~ He reported that  
 they were hard to drive from the shaft with  
 lights, rocks, etc & this could only be done  
 effectively by dangling a can with rocks in  
 it, down into the shaft & swinging it  
 from side to side to disturb the finches from  
 their perches. We could see the bottom &  
 sides of the shaft clearly in the 12 noon  
 sunlight & there were no finches. None-the-less  
 we threw rocks down the shaft but we  
 were unable to bring to light any birds. John  
 felt that we would at least hear them rustling  
 about if any had been present. Just north of  
 this shaft a ridge runs north up Peavine Mtn. The



Evening  
Trip

Morning &  
~~Evening~~  
Afternoon  
Trip

Routes Followed with John Spencer on March 10

# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 10

Peavine Mtn., Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

ridge has a small cluster of Jeffrey Pines on it & a road running up it. On its left (west) slope a large mine dump can be seen & we visited it but found no shaft. We returned to the "big shaft" and headed south over the west shoulder of the same hill we had circled on the road earlier. This hill also has Jeffrey Pine trees on it. John pointed out that W.D. Billings had believed that Jeffrey Pine could only compete with sagebrush & other surrounding vegetation on those sites which were too poor for sagebrush. These hilltops he believed to date back to the Pleistocene & to have highly leached soils. These soils have a light color & nothing grows on them except the Jeffrey Pine, which is knarled & stunted. Presumably the pine could grow ~~on~~ on the surrounding better soils were it not for the brush competition. In the Pleistocene the Jeffrey Pine, <sup>ancestors</sup> had occupied the whole area. At the present time the dominant vegetation on most sites is Sagebrush, Artemisia tridentata. Other species include: Ephedra viridis; Horse brush, Tetradymia (glabrata or canescens); Desert Peach, Prunus andersoni (has <sup>reddish-branches</sup> spines); Gutierrezia sarothrae; Onion, Allium parvum (now in bloom); a grass Sitanion hystrix (6 inches tall, with leaves curling downward); Great Basin Wild Rye, Elymus; Eriogonum (several species); Bitterbrush, Purshia tridentata; Bitterroot, Lewisia





## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

March 10

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

rediviva; Spiny Hop Sage - Grayia spinosa (young leaves are gray & have cauliflower pattern. In spring the bush looks reddish yellow due to colored flower bracts); Curl-leaf Mahogany, Cercocarpus ledifolius; Rabbit bush, Chrysothamnus (silver stems).

Ephedra & Desert Peach enter rapidly after a fire & are often indicators of a past fire (Ephedra stump sprouts). Sagebrush does not reenter as rapidly.

We dropped down the hill to several diggings & explored each. One hole was perhaps 15 feet deep & made of soft dirt. John said it was once deeper & had since caved in. It had once had a few rosy finches roosting in it & they had also found 2 dogs on the bottom of it; apparently they had fallen in. We explored the area around the marsh & dam just south of this hole & then took the above mentioned road east & through the fence to the area I had been to when I got up this morning. We hiked up the ridge I had ascended early, ~~past~~ passed the small horizontal shaft & on up the ridge. We then descended the canyon to the ~~west~~ east & followed it up to the mine dump I had seen earlier. There was no shaft. Nearby we heard a Rock Wren calling from a west facing rocky slope at 1:30 PM. We ascended the west slope of the canyon crossed the top of the ridge &





## Journal

R.E. Johnson

1968

March 10

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co, Nevada (cont.)

descended & ascended again to a large ridge which had several large ~~big~~ vertical shafts in it. There was also a horizontal shaft that connected with one or two of these and I explored this. There was no indication of rosy finches but we left too early to be absolutely certain (3:15 PM). In this vicinity we flushed a Duck Hawk (?) from a pine tree and we heard a Flicker calling and saw several Red-shafted Flicker Feathers.

We returned to the "big shaft" at 3:45 PM to check again since rosy finches would be expected to arrive at about that time. We remained until 4:45 PM, but no birds returned. While waiting a jeep drove up & we talked with the driver, a man who remembered seeing birds flying in & out of a vertical shaft near a cabin somewhere on Peavine Mtn, but he couldn't recall just where that was. He at first thought it was 2 canyons west of the "big shaft" on a small road that heads that way from the big shaft, but then suggested it might be up near the top of the mtn. instead.

After this we drove back to Reno to tell Mrs. Spencer we'd be late for dinner & then we drove north on US 395 to a point just beyond the old Stead Airforce Base turnoff (rt.), where we



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 10

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

turned left & up the NE side of Peavine Mtn & finally ~~into~~ the snow. We parked & hiked up the road to a point in site of both the Radio station relay pt. & the Bell Telephone Station which are located on 2 separate ~~parts~~ summits of the mtn. (This pt. is NW of these summits). It was now after sunset but we hunted with flashlights for the old mineshaft that John recalled had had rosy finches but were unable to find it. The snow was over a foot deep making the search more difficult & covering up land marks. Finally we gave up & headed down the road. In route we passed a snowcovered road heading out a side ridge which appeared to have a mine dump on it at a considerable distance west & above us. I decided to return the next day to look at it. It & the area we had explored were at about 8000 ft. The summit is 8266 ft. We returned to Reno & had dinner. John also gave me some bottles <sup>containing</sup> stomach ~~stomach~~ contents of rosy finches collected at the big shaft. ~~I~~ Identification of the contents may allow determination of the habitat the rosy finches had been feeding in during the winter. After dinner I drove back to the bulldozed area & camped. Just prior to getting my zzz's however, I returned to the "big



## Journal

R.E. Johnson

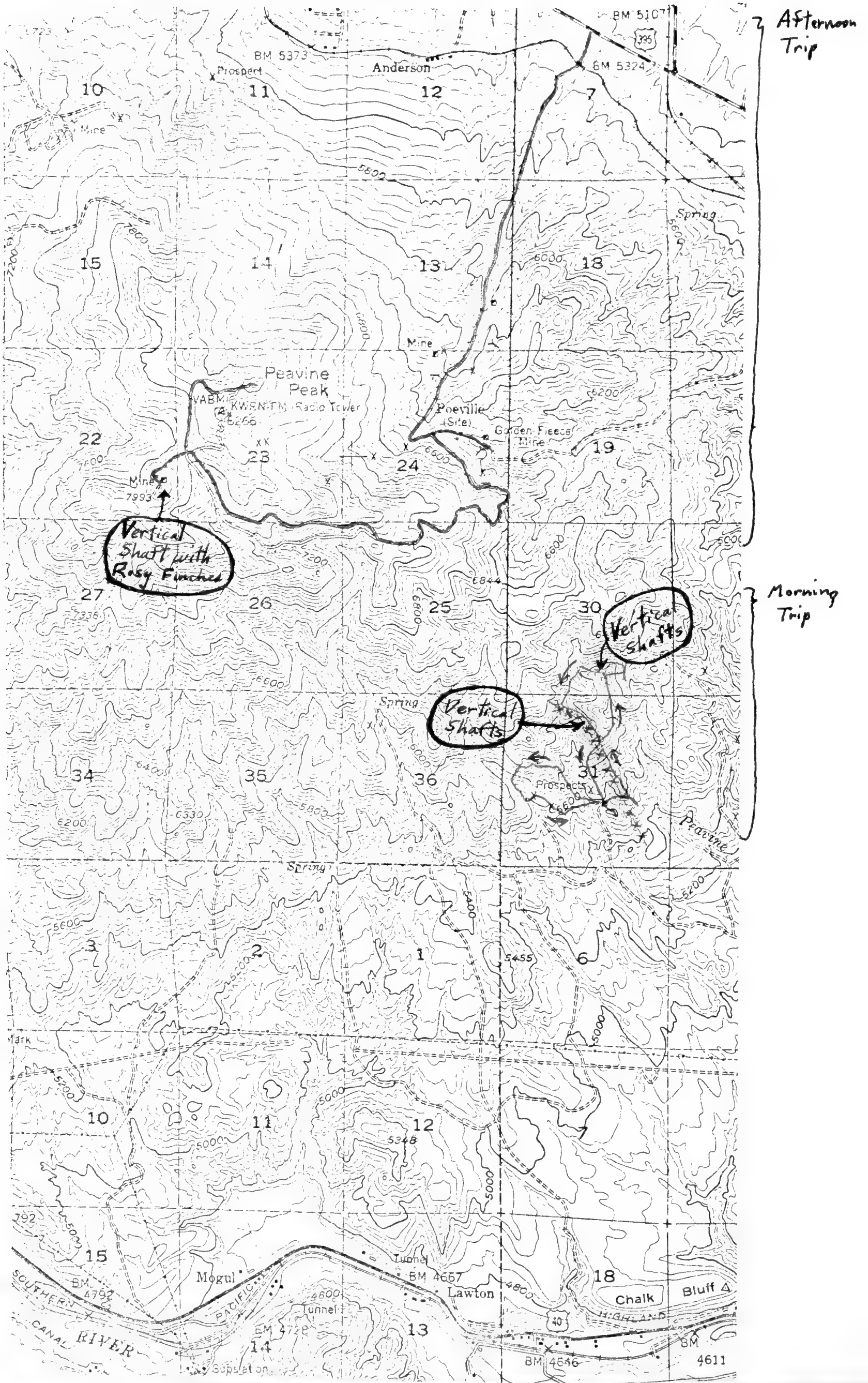
1968

March 10

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

shaft (at 11:30 PM) and shined a light down the shaft & also throw handfuls of rocks down the shaft. No finches. Two bats flew from the shaft however!

Routes taken alone on March 11





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 16

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada

Temperature well below freezing again last night. Ice was on mud puddles before 11 PM and remained at 8 AM this morning. I reexamined the "big shaft" where N.K. Johnson & J. Spencer had seen rosy finches in yrs. past and again saw no finches. Also examined most of the diggings north & west of this shaft, particularly looking for a possible cabin & shaft 2 drainages west (a possibility suggested by the man we met yesterday). The sky was clear early but gradually clouded & until at 2 PM it was completely overcast, cold, & breezy.

## Details:

Starting at 8 AM approx., I hiked up the dirt road just east of the barbed wire fence along a ridge top leading north from the Big Bull dozed area. Up a considerable distance a side ridge descends to the NE to a disturbed area. This was explored (no shaft), then the descent was continued to the creek below (N & NE).

Quail were heard on the opposite slope of the canyon and a Starling sang from the top of a Jeffrey Pine snag (2 or 3 possible nest holes were present on the west side of the tree). The canyon was followed up to where it swings to the left (NW) at which point there is a large <sup>green</sup> mine dump and 3 vertical shafts. The first shaft leans south at about  $15^\circ$  from the vertical, is very deep, and the bottom is out of sight. The second shaft is located 20 ft uphill (N) from the 1st. A flat bottom can be seen, but apparently a side





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 11

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

shaft descends westward from this judging from the continuing descent of rocks rolling to that side of the mine floor when thrown from above. The 3rd shaft is located 50 ft further north (uphill) & has caved in. No rosy finches could be seen or heard at these shafts even after considerable disturbance by rock throwing. ∴ Apparently no finches, at least at this time of day (9 AM). In the vicinity of the shafts a Say Phoebe, several Mtn. Bluebirds, and a Meadowlark were seen. A prospect can be seen up the slope to the E., but there is no shaft. Another prospect is located on the ridgetop above the first & to the north. Again - no shaft. I descended back down to the 3 shafts passing several Rufous-sided Towhees & a flock of Oregon Junco's in sagebrush, and then headed west up creek & ascended the ridge west of the creek. Up canyon on the east side of the creek a good sized horizontal shaft was seen but was not checked. From the top of the ridge just ascended low cliffs with caves in them could be seen on the ridge to the west of this one. I descended (west) into the creek & up this latter ridge at a point south of ~~at~~ the cliffs & then continued down a dirt road to prospect holes. One was a short horizontal hole. Another was a deep vertical shaft, <sup>can see bottom.</sup> No finches were present at either of these. ~~The~~ A claim marker indicated the location as Sec. 31, Twp 20 N, R19 E. The barbed wire fence mentioned earlier is just west of the road & ridgetop. The present



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 11

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

location is quite a ways up hill from where I first encountered the fence. I then followed the rd ~~down~~(s.) to where I had left it earlier today, & then I crossed the fence line and headed down a side ridge (sw) that leads directly to the "big shaft" where N.K. Johnson & J. Spencer had once found finches. There were no finches present. Uphill (south) I found another vertical shaft (20 ft. deep). I returned to the big shaft & headed west on a small dirt road which

On this ridge are a number of workings & an open grove of Jeffrey Pine. None of the workings include a vertical shaft suitable for rosy finches) can be seen heading west & up over a ridge. I left the big shaft at 10:30 AM following the rd at 1st, then taking a side (rt.) road up hill toward 3 prospects I had seen while descending the next ridge east (the one with the barbed wire fence). After checking the prospects I continued up this rd to the main ridgetop & cut crosscountry over into a large canyon (running N-S). I descended this to its mouth & explored a mine dump (copper) to the left (east) of the mouth. Then I cut downhill & east to a road which ~~was~~ the same one I had started on when leaving the big shaft. In route I passed a small pond (damp<sup>m</sup>) on the left (N). In route I saw ~~a~~ a pair of chipmunks, a flock of white-crowned sparrows & a sharp-shinned hawk. I left the big shaft for the car at 12 noon. I took a half hour to explore a dirt road up into a canyon east



Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 11

Peavine Mtn, Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

of my previous activities. This road leaves the main dirt road just east of the bulldozed area. The road branches twice and each branch was eventually blocked by impassable mud puddles. Only one mine scar was seen & this lacked a vertical shaft. Others may exist further up these roads.

After this brief excursion I returned to Reno & drove north on US 395 to a point just NW of the turnoff to Stead Air Force Base (now closed), where an unmarked turn off (paved) to the left, followed by a right turn & another left (dirt) places one on the road to the top of Peavine Mtn. I drove to the same parking area as yesterday & then hiked up the snow covered road to a side road (left) leading to the peak which is west of & lower than the main peak (the location that appeared to have a mine dump last night). After considerable snow plowing up the hill I found a large (20 x 20 ft) vertical shaft that disappeared into the darkness below. About 10 ft down the hole was nearly iced over & I broke some of this away with rocks. No birds were disturbed from the hole. I set up three mist nets in parallel and tied them together in a few places to give better coverage over the shaft; after several rose finches flew over & then in & out of the shaft at 2:30 pm. Once the nets were set up the birds stayed away by





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 11

Leavine Mtn., Washoe Co., Nevada (cont.)

the thousands. The wind was blowing making mist netting ridiculous and making sitting still to watch the net suicidal. I left at 4:10 PM on a hike to keep warm. (It had taken a cold & windy hour to set up the nets: from 2:30 to 3:30 PM). I returned at 5:05 PM after a pleasant jaunt to the Bell telephone relay station on top the peak. There were no birds in the net so I threw a few rocks down the shaft and got no response. At 5:30 PM I started taking the nets down. With only one net left covering the hole, 2 rosy finches flew out of the hole! Nice timing! The finches deserve the PhD, not I. I finished the disassembly and dashed for the car just before dusk. On the return trip I hiked down a side road to the Golden Fleece Mine & threw an avalanche of boulders down a vertical shaft. No finches survived to fly out. I also explored a bit of a horizontal shaft & a shack — no birds seen.

I next drove north up US 395 into California to Hallelujah Jct & then west over Beckwourth Pass (5218 ft) & camped on a dirt road (Lt) south behind a roadside rest area.

March 12.

50. Lassen Co., Calif. to Berkeley, Calif.

The reason for driving north to this area was to locate a series of 3 mine shafts



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 12

So. Lassen Co., Calif. to Berkeley, Calif. (cont.)  
described by Miller & Twining (Condor, 45: 78; 1943).  
However their description leaves the avid rosy  
fincher with 2 problems. ① They base their triangulation  
on the mines on the "town" of Chats. But just  
where is Chats? ② Due to a misprint, the  
triangulation reads "2 miles south + 3 miles  
north of Chats". Do we add these algebraically  
or what!? Oh, well. ~~that~~

With the 1st problem in mind I went  
to the general store in Chilcoot & the lady  
suggested I see a tombstone maker who  
had seen the rise & fall of most everything  
in the whereabouts. However Mr. Tombstone  
had never heard of Chats. So back to Hallelujah  
Jct & the man there was equally ill informed!  
An important town like Chats — vanished &  
unremembered! However both men agreed that  
there were a number of vertical shafts at a mine  
in sight, <sup>to the SE</sup> from the Jct. So I drove south to  
the 1st mail box (rt.) & turned left (east) up a dirt  
road. SE of this turn off 3 mine dumps  
can be seen in sequence up the mtn.  
Looks encouraging. However My Trusty  
VW slithered & squished to an unhappy stop  
in a muddy ditch on a hill only  $2/3$ 's of  
the way to the mine. After a half hour  
extraction process, I hiked on up the road to the



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 12

So. Lassen Co., Calif. to Berkeley, Calif. (cont.)

mine, noticing en route that another road (which might be drier) joins my route above the soggy part. This route left the main hwy (395) further south than where I turned. I'll try it next time.

On arrival at the mine it appears a bit more complex than at a distance. There are actually 5 mine dumps in a row but 2 are less conspicuous. These all face NW & thus were seen from Hallelujah Mt. However there are also several other diggings. These are in a sequence also but face SW & are lower in elevation so that they are not so conspicuous from a distance. The 1st of these is just above a shack at the mouth of the small canyon in which all the shafts are located. It appears to be a horizontal shaft in unstable dirt which has caved in. A short ways further up is a round hole that also appears to be a cavern into the horizontal shaft below. Further up is a large vertical shaft with a small headrig above it & most of the hole covered with planks, obviously placed since the time of operation of the mine. Further up is another shaft which is at 1st horizontal but then plunges straight down in solid rock. It seems likely



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 12

So. Lassen Co., Calif. to Berkeley, Calif. (cont.)

that these latter holes are the ones referred to by Miller. <sup>On the other hand</sup> The 5 mine dumps appear to be all horizontal shafts (lower 2 are horizontal, the top 3 have caved in & snow covers the top one besides) can't be sure that the top ones are horizontal).

Miller describes the 3 mines as being in Calif, however the 5 dumps & the upper 2 ~~horizontal~~ shafts in the other sequence are all in Nevada according to a new yellow boundary marker & according to the topographic maps.

On returning to Berkeley I located on old map (topo: Sierraville Quad, <sup>30 min.</sup> 1894<sub>1</sub>) which had Chats on it. Chats was located in the NE corner of sec. 9, T22N, R17E. Specimens collected at the mine have the designation 2 mi. S & 3 mi. E of Chats. Thus the location is clear. Following this on the maps indicates the general area near the mine but misses then a bit. This location lies in Calif. & along the route the road follows. No mines were seen in this area. My guess is that I was at the correct area & that it is in Nevada, not Calif. However I only found 2, not 3 vertical shafts. My guesses on the carcasses could be incorrect & thus supply a 3rd shaft.

Deer tracks were everywhere & 9 deer were seen. Bitterbrush has been ~~be~~ browsed heavily.





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 12

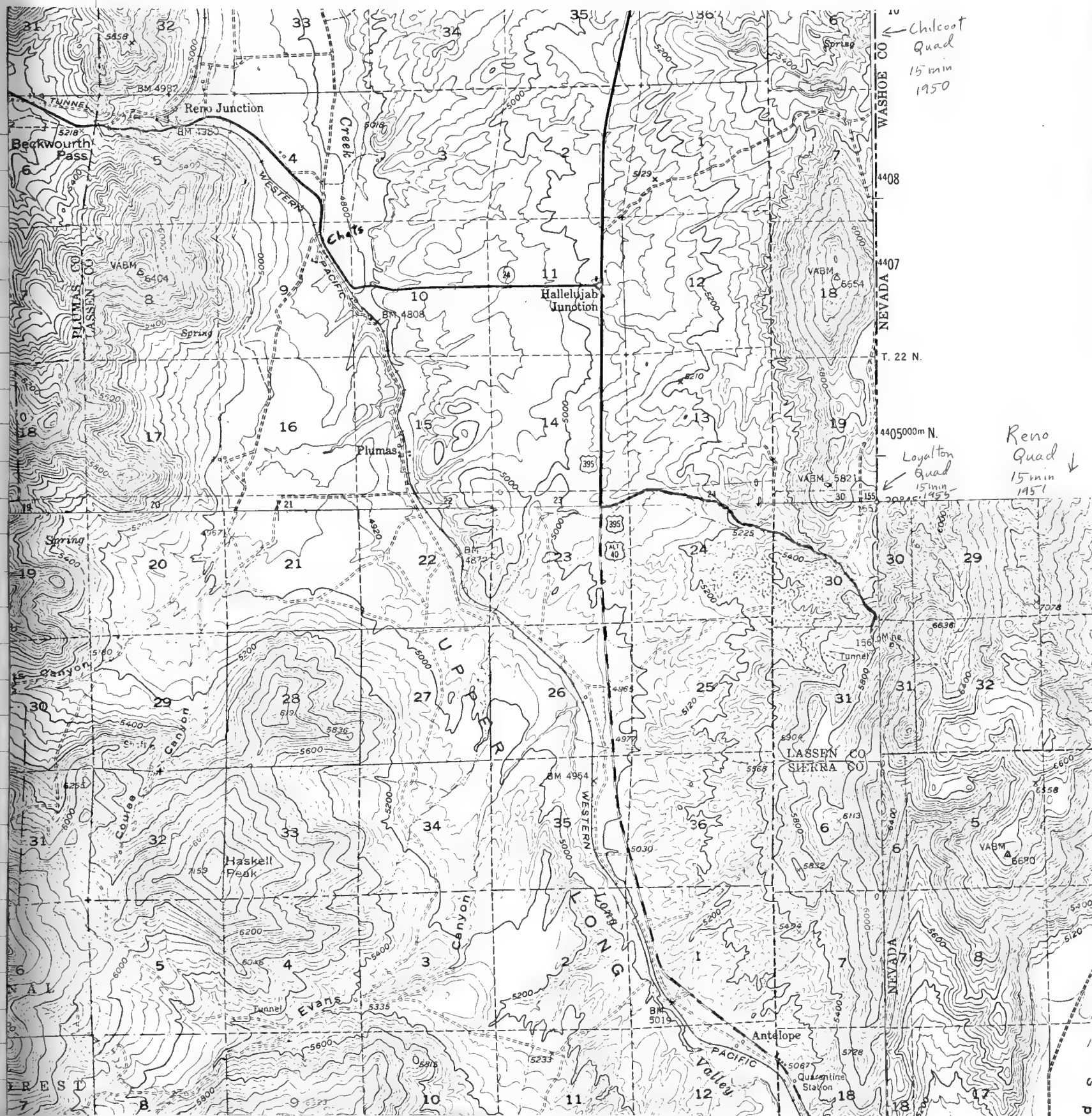
So. Lassen Co., Calif. to Berkeley, Calif. (cont.)

Most of the vegetation is sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata). There are some Juniper trees. Only a few birds were seen. These include Robins, Oregon Juncos & Mtn Bluebirds.

I had to leave at noon in order to reach Berkeley by 7:30PM to give a Biology 4B Final Exam. The wind began to blow at 11AM & by 1PM the wind was nearly blowing the car to a stop. In Reno the roofs on houses were in jeopardy. Whole roofs came off, though more commonly just patches of shingles. The sky was full of dust & whole bushes. The car windshield got sand blasted. Many billboards collapsed along Interstate 80 between Reno & Truckee ~~were blown down or badly twisted.~~ We need more & better winds! I always said I loved wind!



# Location of mine shafts in southern Lassen Co., California<sup>25</sup>





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 19

Berkeley, California to southern Lassen Co. (cont.)

Jim Lynch had told me that John Ralph ~~of~~ the Point Reyes Bird Observatory had seen rosy finches in winter in NE Calif. I called him and he indicated that he had been to the mine shaft in So. Lassen Co. that Miller & Twining had published on (Condor, 45: 78; 1943) in January about 2 yrs ago and there had been very few birds at the shaft. The cascade race (littoralis) had been seen. He suggested I call Rich Stallcup who had been to the shaft many times.

I called Stallcup this morning before leaving on the trip. He said he had <sup>been</sup> to the mine twice this winter (2 wks ago & in early Dec.) and had seen no rosy finches. The previous winter (1966-67) he had seen only one bird, a littoralis. He also mentioned seeing a flock of 500 in Surprise Valley, NE of Alturas in approx. 1964. He also mentions a fellow named McLean of San Jose who had collected an atrata near Westgard Pass (White Mtns).

After the phone call I dropped by school to pick up mail & the new mist nets had arrived, so I took them along. Finally left town at 11:30 AM & arrived in Reno at 3:50 PM. Drove north on US395 to a point a couple miles south of Hallelujah Jct. where a dirt road turns east through a fence with a large no trespassing sign on it. This road is south of the one I used last week and it joins it in an open juniper stand. The road was drier than the other road & thus I could drive all the way to the mine. I forgot to notice the time





Location of mine shafts & road in so. Lassen Co., Calif.

27



Chilcot Quad  
15 min. 1950

Loyalton Quad  
15 min. 1955

Reno Quad  
15 min. 1951



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

March 19

Berkeley, Calif. to southern Lassen Co., Calif. (cont.)  
 when I arrived but it was before 5 PM. I immediately placed a new mist net over the mouth of the vertical shaft with the head rig, then I carried more boards to the shaft to close off all the openings except the one covered by the net. I finished this at 6 PM & then noticed a Say's Phoebe fluttering in the net. I removed & killed & will stuff it later. After dark I set 11 live traps for rodents for use in Dr. Licht's physiological ecology lab. Some traps were placed near the shaft, others under trees or bushes, & others at the old shack down the road. The night is still & clear with the stars blinking out their messages of peace to those who will stop & look & listen. The mountains are still and close.

March 20 so. Lassen Co. to Bodie, Mono Co., Calif.

Sun was already shining on the mtns across the valley to the west when I woke up at 6:15 AM. The sun didn't reach the mine shaft until 7:30 AM. There was another Say's Phoebe caught in the net when I 1st looked at it this morning. This one appeared to be flying out of the shaft when it got caught. The previous one was flying in. Shortly I noticed another phoebe at the next shaft uphill which was reluctant to move far from the shaft upon my approach. This suggests that Phoebes may use mine shafts to escape. The night cold & wind much as the rosy finches do, though there is no reason to think they flock into



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 20

50. Lassen Co., Calif. to Bodie, Mono Co., Calif. (cont.)  
the shafts.

I collected the live traps from 7 to 7:30 AM. Three of the eleven traps contained mice & all were alive. One was captured at the mine, another under a Juniper Tree, & the third inside the old shack. One additional trap was sprung at the shack.

A pair of Mtn Bluebirds sat on the tin roof of the shack or occasionally on the leeward slope. The male explored a space under the eaves on the windward side & later entered a window on the leeward side, but exited within a minute. The birds stayed on the shack for the 15 minutes that I watched them.

A Sage Phoebe fed nearby & a Meadowlark could be heard. Rufous-sided Towhees were occasionally heard from bushes or Juniper trees. A large nest (2 x 3 feet) of sticks was located at the end of a large Juniper branch. It appeared similar to a Magpie nest. At 9:30 AM a Sage Phoebe flew out of the mine shaft! I left the shaft at 9:30 AM & drove slowly back toward the highway, while collecting an Oregon Junco from a small flock (10±) in the juniper-sage association and Piñon Jay from a Juniper tree (no Piñon Pines anywhere in the area). Also saw several Red-shafted Flickers in a mixed stand of dead & live Juniper and a Shrike (sp.). There are a few Starlings in the area, usually seen sitting on fence posts.





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 20

50. Lassen Co., Calif. to Bodie, Mono Co., Calif. (cont.).

I drove north to Hallelujah Jct & then west on Calif. 70 just over Beckwourth Pass & took a dirt road to the left (south) past the Rest stop area until I located a mine in a white rock outcrop west of this road. It has a wire fence around it to keep people from falling in. It is a straight vertical shaft 30+ ft deep with water at the bottom. The opening is small (4 x 6 ft. max.) in solid, white quartz rock. A sage bush over hanging one edge & partly covers the hole. Rosy Finches could conceivably use it, but I didn't want to wait all day to see. This is the hole a lady in Chilcoot mentioned to me last week. She had never noticed birds there, however.

I drove back to Reno & got ice to keep the birds cool, then south toward Carson City. Starlings are everywhere & occasional Sparrow Hawks are perched on phone lines. A Golden Eagle sat on a high rock outcrop on a hill south of Lakeview Summit.

A few miles north of Topaz Lake a Scrub Jay was seen in a Juniper Tree. At 3PM a Loggerhead Shrike was collected from a phone line above sagebrush 2 miles north of Topaz Lake on US 395. A mile north of Topaz Lake a W.C. Sparrow was collected from a flock of 10+ and Oregon Junco were seen - all in sagebrush.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 20

So. Lassen Co., Calif. to Bodie, Mono Co., Calif. (cont.)

Blackbilled Magpies were seen near Topaz Lake. & more commonly in Bridgeport where Starlings were also common.

I drove to Bodie via the road leaving US 895 a few miles south of Bridgeport. It is 13 miles in to Bodie on this dirt road. A few muddy spots were encountered and a little snow hung on north slopes but none was on the road. I arrived in Bodie at dusk & was met by Bill (E.W.) Stelzreide who is one of several(?) Calif. State Park people living there. He invited me in to talk & indicated the road was open much earlier than usual, opening Feb. 25 (even though a sign on the Hwy still says closed) when it normally is closed until the end of April. The State Park people stay in Bodie year around & snowshoe or use snow cat to get in & out. Birds he has noticed include Starling, Robins (one in Jan.), Dickcissel & Swifts. However in discussions <sup>about</sup> the Swifts I found that they are probably Rock Finches. He had never been able to get close to them to tell what they were but had presumed their identity by their manner of flight. They occur in many mine shafts in large numbers and fly in large flocks and feed together at snow edges on the ground. He feels many stay in the shafts all day long.



## Journal

RE. Johnson  
1968March 21 Bodie, Mono Co., California to Berkeley, Calif.

Night was cold as usual. The ground is like a brick. I ~~camped~~ <sup>camped</sup> a few miles from Bodie toward the Hwy near a small open shack and meadow. There is a spring <sup>Murphy Spring</sup> with cool (not cold) water. I was up at 6:10 AM, but it's now 7:45 AM & I'm just through with fixing my breakfast, tending the mice, starting the car (a bit sluggish) and bringing notes up to date. It was probably colder last night than the previous one & if so it was below 15°F. It had been about that in both Susanville & Reno last night & I was half-way between the two.

This morning I have heard Mtn Bluebirds & a large flock of some Fringillid (I was not enough awake, etc to be sure what they were or to locate them).

In the sagebrush flats just south of Bodie Horned Larks are common & are singing. I collected one male which was sitting beside the road on a dirt clod.

I stopped at the Ranger Office & Bill drove me to 2 shafts he'd often seen birds in. We threw rocks down the shafts of these (the Lent Shaft & 2 slopes on Bodie Bluff — both locations are NE of town) & no birds flew out. He indicated that ordinarily many birds would fly out if they were present. I wondered if time of day made a difference (it was 9-9:30 AM <sup>EST</sup> when we visited the



R.E. Johnson  
1968

# Journal

March 21

Bodie, Mono Co, Calif to Berkeley Calif (cont.)

shafts) but he seemed to think there were many birds present all day long, though some were obviously gone since flocks were seen feeding away from the shafts. He hadn't been to the shafts recently so didn't know if they had gone yet or not. However since snow conditions are obviously different this year, it seems reasonable that the birds may have left earlier this year than most. But perhaps they always leave this early anyway. Then too some may still be present & have left earlier before we arrived. The most recent place that he had seen them was on Bodie Mtn (NW of town) where he saw a large flock (no date).

He left me to explore & walk back down to town. I hiked up to the hill top (Bodie Bluff area) where a Say's Phoebe sang from a head rig, the sound of Horned Lark's was common and I also heard a Mtn Bluebird.

[The stope we visited had a whitewash of finch(?) droppings on the rocks ~~apparently~~ on one side near the top of the hole.

Conies could be heard in the mine dumps of coarse rock.

Vegetation is mainly sagebrush mixed with several other species of low brush. Small aspen groves can be seen in a few places. Cactus is not uncommon. Rabbitbrush & Bitter-





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 21

Bodie, Mono Co., Calif. to Berkeley, Calif. (cont.)

make up 30% of the brush cover.

A Chipmunk was seen on one wine dump. Two Killdeer were seen on the marshy part of the creek paralleling the main street in front of the large metal mill bldg. Bill had told me that the Dickcissel sounded like a killdeer & all sounds like that were Dickcissels. So far every such sound has been a Killdeer. Also he told me a song we heard was a Dickcissel when it was a Horned Lark. Therefore one can't trust his bird information too far.

Starlings are common around the bldgs.

I next drove up Geiger Grade toward Bodie Mtn. The road was often soft but no snow was encountered until the top of the grade was reached (over 9000 ft.). Horned Larks were common but no rosy finches.

[Bill has mentioned earlier that he felt the rosy finches were mating judging from their chasing madly about in 2's & 3's. I'm not too sure what this behavior indicates but place of mating (winter vs summer breeding grounds) is of great interest to my work. Perhaps an early spring spent in Bodie would be a worthwhile investment of time.

Also he noted that they are never



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 21

Bodie, Mono Co., Nevada to Berkeley, Calif. (cont.)

seen feeding in flocks after about 3 PM,  
again verifying that these are rosy finches  
not swifts. The feeding areas he's  
noticed them in are located partway down  
the road towards "395" & the other toward  
Mono Lake.

Returning north toward Reno I tried  
to notice just when the Piñon Pine dropped  
out of the east side forests leaving only  
Juniper instead of mixed Piñon & Juniper.  
My mind lapsed after the grade beyond Topaz  
Lake (north of Topaz Lake) & I again thought of  
it when I was ~~the~~ nearly down into the  
Carson Valley so that I may have missed  
some trees beyond (north of) that summit.  
However somewhere between Topaz Lake & Reno  
they drop out. There are none on Peavine  
Mtn. or in southern Lassen Co.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968March 23 Pomona, Los Angeles Co. to Death Valley, Calif.

Drove with my dad from Pomona (PAM) to Death Valley via Victorville & Trona. Had lunch on Aguerberry Point overlooking Death Valley from the west. White-throated Swifts dove down over our heads & down the cliffs. Rock Wrens sang from various rock outcrops nearby. The air was cool but the sun was quite warm. Telescope Peak is white with snow down to 7000 ft in places but Aguerberry Pt. has no snow (elevation 6279 ft.). Vegetation includes Ephedra & Artemisia tridentata. Ground cover is 30-60%. Desert Sparrows are common along the dirt road up to the point. Ravens are common here & there throughout the area. The remainder of the day was spent at or near sea level in Death Valley. Few birds were seen—these being mostly Ravens & English Sparrows (near buildings).

March 24 Death Valley, Calif. to Pomona, Calif.

Drove north from the campground near Furnace Creek & then east to Rhyolite, an over-commercialized ghost town. Birds included Ravens, English Sparrows, Say's Phoebe, & Desert Sparrows. Next we drove back toward Death Valley via the Titus Canyon Rd. Again there were few birds but these included 2 new species to our trip, the House Sparrow and Loggerhead Shrike. White-throated Swifts were common. One flew into a narrow vertical





## Journal.

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 24 Death Valley, Calif. to Pomona, Calif.  
crack & disappeared. A nest? Desert Sparrows  
were singing vigorously throughout the Death Valley  
area.

We left the valley at noon & drove west  
to Lone Pine & then south on us 395 over Lajon  
Pass, then west to Pomona. This was not  
planned as a birding trip thank heavens or  
we would have been sorely disappointed. We  
did skip stopping to identify birds floating in  
ponds south of ~~the~~ Owens Lake (salty ponds) due to  
our rush to make home by dinner.

March 25 Newport Upper Harbor, Orange Co., Calif.

Drove From Pomona on the Corona Freeway to  
the Riverside Freeway (Santa Ana Canyon) & then  
sw to the Newport Freeway to Coast Hwy 1, then  
south to the upper bay. The southern portion of  
the bay is highly developed but the northern part  
is below the low tide line & has been left undisturbed  
to a greater extent. A rd. parallels the east side  
along the mud flats. Another road parallels the west  
shore but is above on the cliffs. Houses line the  
tops of the cliffs on both sides. I collected  
2 Savannah Sparrows (Beldingi) & saw many in  
the salt marshes along the edge of the mud  
flats, <sup>west side of bay.</sup> Song Sparrows occurred along the boundaries  
of the Savannah Sparrow zone but remained above



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 25 Newport Upper Harbor, Orange Co., Calif. (cont.)  
dry soil or occupied bushes along a small fresh water creek. Both species sang occasionally. Starlings were also present + one bikini-clad Homo sapiens with 2 hill climbing, motor cycle type boy friends. A quiet peaceful location!

March 27 Newport Upper Harbor, Orange Co., Calif.

Returned to Newport Harbor via the same route but this time collected on <sup>larger</sup> mud flats & accompanying marsh on the east side. Collected 5 Savannah Sparrows, all beldingi race again. Apparently the large-billed race (rostratus) has already migrated south to Mexico to breed. Kidneys of these 5 birds & 2 from March 25 were dissected out & sent to Dr. Oscar Johnson & John Mugass at Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minn. ~~for an extensive~~ as a part of their extensive study of avian kidney histology in correlation with ecology & function. Kidneys were fixed immediately upon collecting in AFA fixative (10 pts glacial acetic acid; 10 pts 37% formalin; 10 pts. 95% alcohol).

Other birds seen included: Red-backed Sandpiper, Red-throated Loon, Killdeer, Coot, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Amer. Avocet, Dowitcher, Black-bellied Plover, Ringed Plover, Snowy Egret, Meadowlark, Caspian Tern, Ringed Ring-billed Gull, Bufflehead, Sora,



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

March 28

Newport Upper Harbor, Orange Co., Calif. (cont.)  
and a Louisiana Heron! The latter has not  
be recorded north of San Diego however I  
couldn't collect it do to the timely arrival  
of a policeman investigating a report of gun  
shots in the area. It appears that it is illegal  
to carry or discharge a loaded weapon in the  
city of Newport & the mudflats are within the  
city limits. After some discussion I was  
freed from prison sentence & continued preparing  
my specimens. However I "promised" to cause  
no more trouble — at least not in Newport.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

April 12, 68

Berkeley, Alameda Co., Calif. to Squaw Valley area

Left Berkeley at 3:45 PM & arrived at US Forest Service campground near Squaw Valley at about 8 PM. Weather clear, still. The campground has less snow than it did on May 27 of last year! Tomorrow<sup>night</sup>, I hope to collect Peromyscus for Physiological Ecology Lab. Plan is to drive to Reno then south to Bishop & ~~up~~ Big Pine, then up into the White Mtns.

April 13, 68

Squaw Valley, Calif. to Reno, Nevada to White Mtns, Calif.

Got up at 5:30 AM to the sound of Steller's Jays in the pine trees and Canada Geese overhead. Drove back to Truckee & then east to Reno & south on US 395. Stopped at the lower end of Crowley Lake & took a side road east to a boat landing area. A Brewer Blackbird was standing on the shoreline & 2 Eared Grebes (breeding plumage) were diving about 200 ft offshore. Two Common Loons were seen on the lake, each far from shore. A pair of Mtn. Bluebirds sat on a phone wire & a Sparrow Hawk flew over the flat sagebrush country adjacent to the lake.

Drove on to Bishop, then east past the Bishop airport to the White Mtn Headquarters & beyond this up a dirt road south, then east up Redding canyon. Drove until only 4-wheel drive could cope with the steep loose road. Parked in sight of a cabin (had passed an abandoned one earlier). Hiked beyond





RE. Johnson  
1968

# Journal

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April 13,

Squaw Valley, Calif. to Reno, Nev. to White Mtns, Calif.  
the cabin on the road to the remains of still  
another cabin. The road continued but returned  
down to the car. There is a good little  
creek in the canyon bottom, lined with willows.  
In these Spotted Towhees & Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.  
Chuckars ran along the road. Lizards (5";  
Sceloporus?) were common. Time 1-2 PM. A  
Rock Wren sat on a dry dirt bluff above the canyon  
bottom. A Say Phoebe sat on top a cottonwood  
at the lower cabin (no creek at this point). A Desert  
Sparrow flew from a bush beside the road & landed  
50 ft away on another bush (sage).

[subsequent written 2 wks later and necessarily  
more brief & less accurate]

Drove west back to Bishop & then south  
on US 395 to Big Pine & east again on a  
paved road to Westgard Pass. The road  
to White Mtn begins a mile or more beyond  
the pass (east of it). The road is now paved  
(it was not paved several yrs. ago when I  
ascended it in my old black Ford) & relocated  
a bit over its old location making it a bit  
less steep. It is also now a wider road than  
the road to Westgard pass from Big Pine. The  
pavement extends to the Schulman Grove (10 miles)  
& then continues as a wide dirt road.



R.E. Johnson  
1968

April 13 Squaw Valley, Calif. to Reno, Nev., to White Mtns, Calif.

Mileage along the road from the Jct are as follows:

Fossil area	3 miles
Grandview Campground	5
Sierra Viewpoint	8
Schulman Grove	10
The Patriarch	22

I drove to Schulman Grove & encountered only one patch of snow on the road (& this was a big one - over a foot deep, 100 ft long & the width of the road). ~~The following birds were seen at the~~ Live traps were set in the grove. Then I drove up the <sup>dirt</sup> road & through considerable snow & muddy roads to the top (almost - the VW Bus won't make the very last pitch) of a mtn<sup>(10,800 ft.)</sup>, which is dotted with small radio shacks & antennas. I set <sup>20</sup> traps under & around the shacks & also around trees a little lower on the slope. I left the area at dark & set a few more <sup>12</sup> traps at a lower shack & associated junk piles, then 8 more in sagebrush, then drove back to Grandview CG. For the night. It was considerably warmer at the CG than it was at the trap sites.



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

April 14

White Mtns to Berkeley, Calif.

up early & drove back to Schulman Grove. <sup>10400 ft.</sup>  
 Only one of 12 traps contained a mouse (Peromyscus). The following birds were heard in the grove at 7AM: Mtn. Chickadee, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Clarke Nutcracker, Rock Wren, Mtn. Bluebird, Nuthatch sp., Oregon Junco.

Further up the road Horned Larks & a Red-shafted Flicker were seen at 10600 ft.  
 No mice were caught in traps in the sagebrush but 7 were caught near the shafts on the radio mtn. I drove further toward White Mtn & almost submerged the VW in a huge mud puddle just short of the Crooked Creek Lab. Returned south to the paved road. Both snow & Bristlecone Pine appear to end at 10,000 ft. (lower limit). Saw a golden-mantled ground squirrel at 8000 ft.

The route back included a number of side trips from US 395.

① trip east to Owens Gorge & then north on back roads to Tom's Place & vicinity & to dam on Crowley Lake. White-throated Swifts & Violet-green Swallows were common along the gorge.

② trip west, <sup>near</sup> Crestview to a Volcanic glass





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968  
April 14  
~~May 15~~

White Mtns to Berkeley, Calif.  
flow (outcrop).

③. a short drive along the southwest edge of Mono Lake to look at the mineral hot springs formations.

Killdeer were common.

Then drove north on <sup>us</sup>395 to Minden, then west on state 19 to Lake Tahoe & around the south end where I took a look at the Tahoe Keys (noted a no ice skating sign!) & Heavenly Valley ski Lift area. Checked to see how close the lifts get to Freel Pk & Job's Sister where Rosy Finches were seen by Cogswell (see his field notebook). Their maps indicate they come close to the top of Monument Pk (10,167 Ft.), but that this is a long way, crossing a major valley, from Freel Pk, et. al. (see attached map & picture). I drove back after dark on US 50 to Sacramento, then Interstate 80 to Berkeley.



Welcome to  
Heavenly  
Valley



America's  
Largest  
Ski Area

 CALIFORNIA/NEVADA





# 9 Basic Rules For Skier's Safety



1. All skiers shall ski under control. Control shall mean in such a manner that a skier can avoid other skiers or objects.

2. When skiing downhill and overtaking another skier, the overtaking skier shall avoid the skier below him.



3. Skiers approaching each other on opposite traverses pass to the right.

4. Skiers shall not stop in a location which will obstruct a trail or stop where they are not visible from above or impede the normal passage of other skiers when loading or unloading.



5. A skier entering a trail or slope from a side or intersecting trail shall first check for approaching downhill skiers.

6. A standing skier shall check for approaching downhill skiers before starting.



7. When walking or climbing in a ski area, skis should be worn and the climber or walker shall keep to the right side of the slope.

8. All skiers shall wear safety straps or other devices to prevent run-away skis.



9. Skiers shall keep off closed trails and posted areas and shall observe all traffic signs and other regulations as prescribed by the ski area.

## HEAVENLY VALLEY

P. O. Box AT South Lake Tahoe, Calif. 95705

Phone (area 916) 541-4280

### 1967-68 RATE SCHEDULE

#### CHAIR LIFT TICKETS (Good On All Facilities)

	Adults	Children 12 & Under
All Day .....	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
Half Day (After 1:30 P.M.) .....	5.00	2.00
5 Consecutive Days (Mon.-Fri.) ....	27.50	13.00
5 Consecutive Days (Anytime) ....	30.00	14.00
7 Days* .....	38.50	18.00

\* Can be used over 8 days — extra day pro-rated if bought before expiration of 7 day book. Children, extra day pro-rated if bought before expiration of 7 day book.

#### SEASON SKI PASSES

Adult .....	\$150.00
High School (with Student Body Card) .....	75.00
Child (12 and Under at Date of Purchase) .....	50.00

#### THIS YEAR INTERCHANGEABLE SKI TICKETS

Heavenly Valley, Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley offer for the 1967-68 Ski Season — an interchangeable 5 and 7 consecutive day Ski ticket. The 5-day ticket is \$28.50 and the 7-day booklet \$39.50.

To make your skiing at Heavenly Valley an unforgettable holiday, Pepi Greimeister and his fine staff of American and European instructors are ready and waiting to help you in Ski School.

#### SKI LESSONS

All Day .....	\$ 7.00
Half Day .....	4.00
Three Day .....	18.00
Five Day .....	25.00
10 Half Day Lessons .....	30.00
Private Lessons — 1 person, per hr. ....	10.00
Each Additional Student .....	4.00

#### EQUIPMENT RENTALS

	Adults	Children
Head and Hart Metal Skis .....	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.00
Poles .....	1.00	1.00
Boots .....	2.00	2.00
Combination of Skis, Poles and Boots ..	6.00	4.00
5 Day .....	25.00	17.00
7 Day .....	35.00	24.00

Price Schedules Subject to Change

Use of Equipment and Facilities at Your Own Risk

## Heavenly Valley Ski Lifts (Freel Pk & Job's) Sister in rear

40

sheltered southeast corner of Lake Tahoe, known as the "Banana Belt", it is blessed with the most ideal, sunny winter weather. Heavenly Valley's many high peaks and wind-protected bowls assures excellent packed and powder snow for uninterrupted good skiing. **Families are always welcome at Heavenly** . . . Teen dances and parties — And baby-sitting services are available in the area to give Mom and Dad worry-free skiing and evenings out.







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Professional, a long-time coach of the Far West Junior National Team, and coach of the International Summer Racing School. A large staff of experienced American and European certified instructors hold classes each morning and afternoon in the latest ski techniques for beginners to experts . . . Children's classes and private lessons by appointment.

Each winter Heavenly sponsors a special program of professional coaching for aspiring young racers . . . The Heavenly Valley Blue Angels.



Charge Card, or Diner's Club Card you can arrange for your entire "HEAVENLY SKI VACATION" . . . Air fare, skiing, instructions, lifts, equipment rentals or purchase, Hertz Rent-A-Car service and accommodations and meals at the hotel, motel or lodge of your choice.

Write or phone for information about Heavenly Valley's many fabulous low-cost "LEARN TO SKI WEEK" Vacation packages. Heavenly Valley Ski movies are available for club and group showings.



EAST PEAK  
EL. 9,591 FT.

MONUMENT PEAK  
EL. 10,147 FT.

LAKE TAHOE AIRPORT

U.S. HWY. 10 SAN FRANCISCO

LAKE TAHOE  
INTER. NOTES



## Journal

RE. Johnson  
1968

May 3

Berkeley to Livermore, California

A foggy cool day in Berkeley. Left for Livermore at 11:40 AM & arrived at 12:20 PM. The sky was clearing at Livermore. Drove out the road to the US Veteran's Hospital & beyond this to the new dam (Del Valle Dam) on Arroyo Mocho Creek & up the reservoir floor on a dirt road for 2 miles. I stopped in an area where the wash bottom was 200 ft wide & dotted with ponds & broad benches on either side were covered with grass where cattle were grazing. The main excuse for this trip (if an excuse is needed to get some fresh air) was to trap ground squirrels for use in Physiological Ecology Lab. No sign was seen of them but the area abounded in birds, live birds in contrast to the mothball fleet of MVZ. Six Turkey Vultures fed on a cow carcass partly submerged in one of the large ponds. Later they circled overhead briefly, perhaps taking flight because of my approach. Four sat on the grassy bench across the wash & two of these appeared to go into battle, making postures with wings outspread & facing each other. Two Red-tailed Hawks circled near each other over the grassland & one gave chase to the other. Then the pursued one circled east & the other west to join another hawk. Together they circled peacefully up hill over oak grasslands. In the distance a Calif. Quail ~~could~~ & a Mourning Dove could be heard.





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

May 3

Berkeley to Livermore, CaliforniaYellow

~~Black~~-billed Magpies were commonly seen flying over the open wash bed or grassland but were rarely seen otherwise. Brewers Blackbirds walked the edges of the wash ponds feeding & several were seen at a feeding trough for cattle. One Willet waded in a pond & occasionally called. Killdeer were commonly heard. Cliff Swallows dove over the pond surfaces & a Belted Kingfisher was seen flying to a low bank above the water with a white object in its mouth. Shortly after landing it swallowed the object. At intervals of approx. 2 minutes it plunged into the water (out of my sight) & rapidly returned to the perch shaking the water off & preening. Since it always faced away from the water on its perch between dives & spent a large part of this time shaking & preening, one would guess ~~the~~ it entered the water to bath. Unfortunately I could not see the entry itself. Was it head first or feet first when bathing?? A pair of Bulluck's Orioles flushed from my side of the wash, the ♂ calling loudly & flew across the wide open wash to the other side. They encountered another pair there & they were rapidly chased back to my side before they had even had a chance to alight. The pursuing bird only chased them a short ways but this proved sufficient. A Linnet & several single Green-backed Goldfinches were seen sitting on bush &





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

May 3

Berkeley to Livermore, Calif.

thistle tops in the grassland. Starlings were seen flying several times. Canada Geese were heard overhead, but were not seen. The voice of the Meadowlark was common but none were seen. ~~At Ruby~~ <sup>thru</sup> ~~acrossed~~ Ugh! An Anna's Hummer sat atop a 2ft bush only 2ft from a Green-backed Goldfinch. No interaction. The goldfinch flew on after several minutes. Two Western Kingbirds sat on stumps 50ft apart overlooking the grassland. A Western Bluebird flew nervously from one low perch to another & out of sight. Killdeer were displaying along the wash bottom. Incomplete displays involved raising the tail & lowering the head by pivoting the body on the legs. In complete displays the whole body was then lowered so as to appear to rest on the sand (breast touching). The tail was fanned out & tilted upward & the wings were parted so that the rufous-tan ~~the~~ rump patch was conspicuous as well as the <sup>black</sup> band on the tip of the tail. The bill was slightly open & quivering, emitting a "killdeer" quality sound made of rapid notes of the same pitch & not so loud ~~as~~ as its other notes.

Uphill in the oak grassland a Western Tanager, an Ash-throated Flycatcher (singing "chi-beer") from a tree top but not a conspicuous perch, rather in the center of the foliage), a Warbling Vireo (singing from



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

May 3

Berkeley to Livermore, Calif.

beneath the oak canopy) and a Scrub Jay were seen. Yellow-billed Magpies & Bullock's Orioles were more common than below. Further up the slope Buckeye became a common tree & Montia was in the shade. The <sup>overstory</sup> vegetation formed a more complete canopy. A tick (winged) lit on me reminding me to make a thorough tick hunt this evening (& to scratch & swat the rest of the afternoon). A Swainson Thrush fed on the ground under the dense oak canopy. A pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks fed in a Buckeye tree nearby & the male sang. A Starling fed in the top of an oak in the grassland. There were many ♀ & one Immature. Bullock's Orioles. They flew back & forth from oak to oak, usually remaining in the foliage about half way up the trees. A Meadowlark sang from somewhere within the oak grassland. A Western Kingbird foraged from the top of an oak overlooking the extensive grassland. A Nuttall Woodpecker worked along the undersides of oak branches while hanging upside down. A Titmouse (Plain) worked the upper side of the same branch.

The oak trees were loaded with clumps of mistletoe. The grassland contained Brodia throughout, & poppies, thistles, radish, monkey flower, etc in the lower open parts. Bushes of gooseberry & elderberry were common in the oak-grassland.



## Journal

RE. Johnson  
1968

May 3

Berkeley to Livermore, California <sup>low (3 ft up)</sup>.

Calif. Quail were on the limbs of ~~the~~ oak trees at 3:30 PM & several more were 20 ft. up on limbs of a Buckeye tree. In all cases they were well protected in the foliage. Several Oregon Juncos were seen in the shade of the trees and one sparrow of uncertain species. Mourning Doves flew over now & then & one lit in a Buckeye tree about 10 ft below the canopy.

A Calif. Jay started squawking upon seeing me & this immediately brought out the presence of a Bush-tit that I hadn't noticed until then. It began twittering. This prompted me to start the "pish" call which brought another Jay & shortly another Bush-tit and several Oregon Juncos. After a bit a pair of Plain Titmice appeared & came within 5 ft of me chattering & complaining. They remained and House Wren came near singing. Another Jay approached and a Swainson Thrush came up quietly & watched. Quite a noisy response! Two new species were brought out of the woodwork by the call.

Driving back to Livermore several Acorn Woodpeckers were seen on telephone poles, & a Sparrow Hawk & several Red-winged Blackbirds were on fence & phone lines.

Next drove out of Livermore on S. Livermore Ave & followed it to Corral Hollow to check for locations to



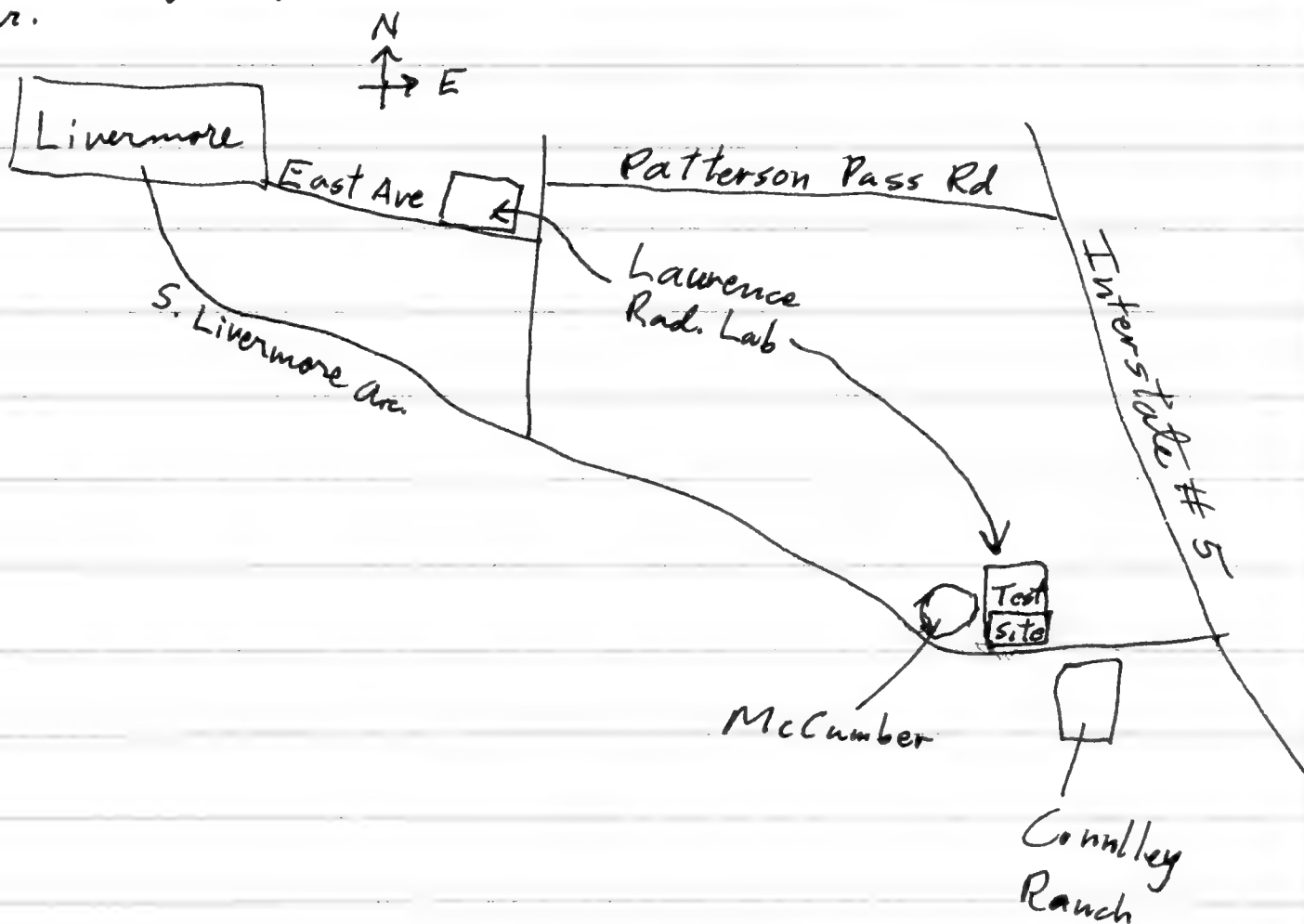
## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

May 3

Berkeley to ~~Patterson~~ Livermore, Calif. & return.

set traps for ground squirrels. I heard one ching from a barren area beside the road. The Coral Hollow area has short grass cover & many barren patches and looks idea for ground squirrels. I checked with Mr. Bob Connley of the Connley Ranch and he was enthusiastic about trapping ground squirrels on his property & suggested a location next to his barn & coral area where he sees them often & plans to poison in a month. A guard at the Lawrence Radiation Lab Test Site gave me the name & phone number of another land owner in the area: C.C. McCumber of Livermore (phone Hilltop 72168) owns the property along the road adjoining the test site. I did contact McCumber however.



I then drove east to Interstate 5, then North to Patterson Pass, then west again to Patterson & back to Berkeley.





Johnson, R. E.

1968 (Part)

Catalogue

#411-487

Journal

Montana



## Catalog

R.E. Johnson

Saint Marys Lookout, 9331 ft., Bitterroot Mtns, 7½ miles west of Stevensville, Montana

Aug. 3, 1968

411	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 1mm	skull os. buccal sac empty	24.8
		in molt (Flight & body feathers)			
412	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss	21.3
413	♂	" "	testes 1mm	skull os. buccal sac full	27.1
414	♂	" "	testes 2mm	skull os.	24.7
415	Imma	" "		skull unoss.	23.0
416	♂	" "	testes 2mm	skull os buccal sacs full	24.2
417	♀?	" "		skull os.	21.4

Lolo Pk, 9075 ft., Missoula Co., Montana, Bitterroot Mtns.

Aug 6, 1968

418	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 2mm	buccal sac partly full skull os.	28.4
419	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 2mm	buccal sac full skull os.	25.0
420	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	28.2
421	?	Rosy Finch		skull os. rear 1/3 + back of skull blown off	21.4 +
422	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss	

Trapper Peak (ne cirque), 9000 ft., Ravalli Co., Montana, Bitterroot Mtns.

Aug. 11, 1968

423		Rosy Finch		skull os.	
424	♂	" "		skull os	testes 1mm
		in molt (Flight & body feathers)			25.2
425	♂	Rosy Finch		skull os	testes 1mm
		in molt (immolt)			26.7
426	♂	Rosy Finch		skull os.	testes 1mm
					27.2



Calalog

R.E. Johnson

Trapper Peak (ne. cirque), 9000 ft, Ravalli Co., Montana, Bitterroot Mtns

Aug. 11, 1968

427	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 3mm	skull os.	(in molt wing + breast)	26.2
428	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 2mm	skull os.	in molt	28.8
429	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 1mm	skull os.	in molt	27.6
430	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.		24.8
431	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss		24.5
432	♀	Rosy Finch	ovary 3x2mm	skull os.		26.1
433	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 1mm	skull os.		27.9
434	♀	Rosy Finch	ovary 4x2mm	skull os.		26.5
435	♀	Rosy Finch	ovary 3x2mm	skull os.		27.7
436	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 1mm	skull os.	(in molt)	27.0
437	♀	Rosy Finch	ovary 2x3mm	skull os.		25.7
438	?	Rosy Finch	one testes (?) 1mm	skull os		25.0

in molt

Illinois Pk (ne cirque), 7000 ft, Mineral Co., Montana, Bitterroot Mtns

Aug 18, 1968

439	Imma.	Rosy Finch				24.0
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Unnamed Peak, 4 mi. e. of Pintlar Pass, 9200 ft, Granite Co.,

Montana. Anaconda Range

Aug. 23, 1968

440	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.		25.0
441	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.		27.5
442	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.		28.0



# Catalog

R.E. Johnson

1/2 mi. w. of East Pintlar Peak, Granite Co., Montana, 9200 ft., Anaconda Range.

Aug. 24, 1968

443.	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	24.5
444	♂	Rosy Finch	1mm testes	skull os. buccal sacs full	26.0
445	♀	Water Pipit	2x3mm ovary	skull os.	21.0

1/8 mi. n. of West Pintlar Pk, Deer Lodge Co., Montana, 9000 ft., Anaconda Range

Aug. 24, 1968

446.	♀	Rosy Finch	brood patch 2x2mm ovary	buccal sacs empty skull os.	23.0
477.	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	24.0

1/4 mi. w. + 1/8 mi. n. of Little Rainbow Mtn, Deer lodge Co., Montana.

Anaconda Range

Aug. 27, 1968

478.	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	28.5
479	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	24.0
480	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	27.0
481	Imma	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	26.0
482	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	24.5
483	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss. in molt	27.5
484	♂	Rosy Finch	buccal sac empty skull os.	Imm testes	27.0
485	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	26.0
486	Imma.	Rosy Finch		skull unoss.	26.0

Storm Lake Pass, 9100 ft., Deerlodge Co., Montana. Anaconda Range.

Aug. 27, 1968

487.	Imma	Water Pipit		skull unoss.	21.0
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# Montana Trip



R.E. Johnson  
1968

# Rosy Finch Collecting Trip

Montana Trip - Summer 1968

July 27 - Sept. 23



# Journal

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R.E. Johnson  
1968

## Trip to Montana From Berkeley, Calif. - Summary

July 27 - Drove VW bus from Berkeley to Fresno where I had fuel pump trouble. Being Sat evening I could <sup>not</sup> repair it then, so left it & drove a Hertz Rental car from Fresno Airport to Kings Canyon National Park (Cedar Grove) to see my parents, who were camping there. Arrived at 1 AM.

## July 28 Cedar Grove to Fresno, Calif.

Visited with my parents. Birds in open pine forest: Western Wood Pewee - feeding fledged young, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Stellar Jay, White-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Mtn. Chickadee, Brewer Blackbird. Drove back to Fresno, returned car & spent night in motel.

## July 29 Fresno to Sagehen Creek Station, Calif.

Drove north & had minor car trouble. Neille VW in Sacramento couldn't find trouble (they put in spark plugs which wasn't the trouble), so I drove on to Donner Pass, & Truckee & then up to Sagehen for a shower & camped out. Visited with Mike Fitzgerald. Microtus are having a high.

## July 30 Sagehen Creek, Calif. to Twin Falls, Idaho.





R.E. Johnson  
1968

July 30

Sagehen Creek, Calif to Twin Falls, Idaho

Unmerciful trip until east of Battle Mtn, Nevada, where my car began to miss & reduce my speed especially on hills. The VW dealership at Elko is small & I judged I could do better by forging on to Twin Falls. I barely made it to Twin Falls. They found I had zero compression on one cylinder & a burned valve as the cause. Also the carburetor was spilling gas all over the engine! Spent night in motel.

July 31

Twin Falls, Idaho to May Creek Campground, Montana

The car was ready at 3 PM and I drove north via US 93A, watching birds as I went. Southern Idaho is open flat ground which is either covered with sagebrush or has been cleared for farming. The highway passes through a quilt work of these types of vegetation. Roadsides are usually lined with fence posts & telephone poles providing perching sites for many birds. Road kills of rabbits are common.

Twin Falls → Shoshone on US 93:

Black-billed Magpie & Barn Swallow common.

Richfield - sagebrush

Mourning Dove - common

Carey:

English Sparrow - common

Black-billed Magpie



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968July 31 Twin Falls Idaho To May Creek Campground, MontanaMourning Dove - commonStarling - common - juveniles sit in cottonwood tree in green field near houses.Red-winged Blackbird - streamside + pondside vegetationRobin - oneWestern Kingbird - twoBrewer Blackbird - commonGreater Yellowlegs - oneWestern Meadowlark - oneKilldeer - oneGreen-winged Teal - one ♀Pied-billed Grebe - commonCoot - commonBlack Tern - oneTeal - ♀ with blue wings - 2Ruddy Duck - 1 ♂} one small lake  
& a few small  
ponds ne of  
town

Moore:

Mourning DoveEnglish SparrowBarn SwallowBlack-billed MagpieWestern Meadowlark

Darlington:

Sparrow Hawk



R.E. Johnson  
1968

July 31 Twin Falls, Idaho to May Creek Campground, Montana  
near Ft. of Mt. Borah  
Raven - 4

Drove through Salmon, up to Lost Trail Pass & turned right (east) toward Wisdom & Big Hole Battlefield. Camped 11 miles down this road at May Creek Campground (water, tables, stores, trees, etc.).

July 32  
(Aug. 1)

May Creek Campground to Missoula, Montana

Drove back to Lost Trail Pass & then down the Bitterroot valley toward Missoula. Turned off to right (east) to drive 3 miles up to Sula Lookout to get better view of Bitterroot Mtns. Could see Boulder Peak<sup>(9600)</sup>, Trapper Pk<sup>(10131 ft)</sup>, ~~Cannon Pk~~, Sugar Loaf (9600 ft.), Como Pk (9552 ft.), & Ward Mtn (9010 ft.) (or 9230 ft.) (from south to north). Maps covering area (West Fork & Darby District Maps of Bitterroot National Forest; Hamilton & Elk City quads of USGS 1:250,000 series) differ on elevations by as much as 250 ft in some cases. Considerable snow is still present in cirques & other protected locations. Fire danger is high.

Further toward Missoula & turned off to the left up the paved road to West Fork Ranger Station (11 miles). The road is paved for only a short ways beyond this. Before reaching the RS a number of side roads are passed. One (Levene Creek



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Aug. 1

May Creek Campground to Missoula, Montana  
Rd), leaves via Troy Creek Rd to the trail (# 133) to Trapper Peak, the highest peak of the Bitterroot Range. Six miles of dirt Rd,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles of trail. Further along another road turns ~~to~~ right, up Boulder Creek to a campground (1 mile), which would be a useful base of operations in that area.

Drove on to Missoula. Spoke with Dr. Hoffmann, picked up mail, & saw the VW dealer (Universal Motors). Camped in Pattee Canyon.

Aug 2. Missoula, Montana

Had VW valves adjusted. Talked to Drs. Hoffmann & Templeton. Bought groceries & other supplies. Camped in Pattee Canyon.

Aug 3. Missoula to St. Marys Pk, Montana

Drove to Stevensville & saw the Creamery Picnic Parade, US Forest Service, etc and then drove up to roads end below St. Mary Lookout <sup>in the Bitterroot mtns.</sup> The road is found by driving 2 miles south of The Stevensville turnoff on US 93, to St. Mary Rd. & Tr. sign, then turn right (west) & follow signs (well marked) 13 miles to roads end (dirt). Here the Trail (# 116) takes off into the Lodgepole Pine Forest. Rd end to Lookout = 4 miles. A thunderstorm passed north over the Bitterroots at 1 to 2 PM. It was over St. Mary Peak at 1:35 PM. The storm continued for several hours. Lightning strikes





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug 3. Missoula To St. Marys Peak, Montana

occurred in the area but no fires were sighted from St. Mary Lookout, ~~but~~ Many fires were sighted from Ward Mtn L.O. further south.

St. Mary peak sits to the east of the main divide of the Bitterroot Mtns. This is true also of all the highest peaks of the range. Each sits on a side <sup>running</sup> ew. ridge. While each of these peaks is above timberline, has some cliff faces & some snow and several are known to have rosy finches (Trapper, St. Mary, St. Joseph), the main ridge is actually more alpine, barren, & snow covered. French (Condor, 61:24) commented on the elevation where rosy finches were found for this range based on his records of the high east side peaks. Actually it is clear that rosy finches must occur at lower elevations & in greater numbers on the main ridge.

Scrubby 2-3 foot white-barked pine trees ascend to the top of St. Mary Peak on the south slope. The top of the peak is broken rock & scant vegetation. One Rosy Finch was collected from cliffs on the NW after it flew there from the area below the lookout tower.

At 5:30 PM one adult & one young were collected below a large snow patch NE of the lookout tower. There were 2 other young birds left uncollected. Two more adults were collected at 8 PM on cliffs W of where the 1st bird was collected. Spent night in the lookout tower with Lookout Bruce Johnson.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Aug. 4

St. Mary Peak

The storm continues this morning after a lull over the night. The sky is black to the south & its moving this way. Sky is cloudy overhead (6:30 AM). A Cassin Purple Finch was Feeding on the ground beneath the tower. Chipmunks and Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels also Foraged on the ground near the tower. I hiked down the ridge running west from the tower toward the Heavenly Twins (9260) which <sup>lie</sup> closer to the main north-south backbone of the Bitterroot Mtns. This ridge is considerably lower than either peak but is alpine in nature, especially on the north side. I hiked west as far as the 1st side ridge running north, then followed this & descended into the basin to the rt. (east - the basin between me & St. Mary Pk). This basin contains many large snow banks & several pretty, small lakes surrounded by meadows & or trees. Half way down I collected one adult Rosy Finch, the only adult seen all day. Several Water Pipits were seen and I heard one Cony. Clark's Nutcrackers were fairly common below the lakes. Two Hummingbirds were seen. Both approached to within a foot ~~of~~ or two me, apparently attracted by my bright red rain coat.

In the next basin to the west I saw a Peregrine Falcon in flight. There were 3 adult & 2 young Mtn. Goats low on the slope of the Heavenly Twins.



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968Aug 4 St. Mary Peak

I returned east & took the side ridge to the south above the McCalla Lakes. The upper lake has some jagged points above it & a large snow bank but the location is surely too low for rosy finches. I did hear Water Pipits on the upper slopes of the ridge above the lower lake (lake closest to St. Mary Pk.). There were several Juncos along the ridge in scrubby white-barked Pine. Rain which had been threatening all morning now came down hard & I headed back to the lookout.

Poor weather continued in the afternoon, until 3 PM or so when we saw the 1st of a party of 7 people coming into view from below. ~~I~~ I returned to the ridge running north from the lookout where I again found 2 young birds (probably those I'd seen yesterday), but no adults. Near the lookout I found 2 other young birds which were apparently from the cirque to the nw. I collected one of these. I neglected to label the two birds as to date & thus all 7 birds collected on St. Mary Peak are listed for Aug. 3 on the labels & in the catalog.

I hiked on down the mtn, changed the charts at the weather station at Lower McCalla Lake for Bruce, and mailed his outgoing mail.

Aug 5. Missoula & vicinity, Montana

Spent the morning & early afternoon exploring



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug 5 Missoula + vicinity, Montana

possible routes up Lolo Peak. There are two obvious possibilities: ① via McClain Creek Rd to Carlton Lakes which lie at the east base of Lolo Peak (9075 Ft.), ② hike from Mormon Lookout road via Mill Creek Trail.

The 1st route would be the quickest route if a jeep were available, but probably not otherwise. The name "McClain Creek Rd" is rather misleading. The Stevensville Ranger District Map, 1964 for Bitterroot National Forest shows a road up McClain creek. This is not the correct road. The map shows another road further south that goes to or toward Carlton Lakes. This is the correct road is is labeled McClain Creek Rd along the highway. The map shows a jeep trail leaving ~~the~~ <sup>McClain</sup> ~~creek~~ <sup>road</sup> at one point & later intersecting this road again. At the 1st takeoff of the jeep trail there is a sign pointing the way to Carlton Lakes & this is the correct route to follow, rather than continuing to the second intersection of the two since the main road is washed out before this latter point. The jeep road is often steep & loose and at one point I had to take a short switch backing side road to make it up the slope, but the ~~jeep~~ VW finally made it <sup>passed</sup> the second jct with McClain Creek Rd. before the slope was too steep for the VW. At this point I was further from the Lolo Peak than I would





## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

Aug. 5 Missoula & vicinity, Montana

be from the nearest point on Mormon Creek Rd. With a jeep however one can apparently go all the way to upper Carlton Lake which is only a mile (+ 1000 ft elevation) from Lolo Peak. I returned to the highway (US 93) & drove north to Lolo & took the road (11.) toward Lolo Pass, to the take off point of the dirt road to Mormon Lookout (10 miles). This was followed to a saddle between Lolo Pk and Mormon Pk (1.5 miles from Mormon Pk). I drove on to the lookout to check on the route. The lookout (♀ Beth something) said to follow Mill Creek trail from the previously mentioned saddle until I encountered a cleared steep slope (a huge run) leading up slope to the left. Follow the huge run to its top & beyond (following trail blazes, red flagging & occasional trail rutts) to the ridge top. From there the ridge top is followed west through open timber to timberline & up & over the 1st peak. Lolo peak lies beyond this a short ways.

I returned to Univ. of Montana and skinned birds, then attended a Zoology Dept picnic held in Pattee Canyon.

Aug 6. Lolo Peak, Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

Hiked to Lolo Peak via Mormon Lookout route, Mill Creek Trail, etc. I examined the cliffs (north & east facing) of the 1st peak. There are large rock slides, a few snow patches, & some meadows below in the cirque



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Aug. 6

Lolo Peak, Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

floor, but the area is really not quite alpine in character. Alpine larch & White-barked Pine reach the top of the peak on ~~the~~ via the south, east & west slopes & a few trees occur on the north cliff face as well. I have seen rosy finches in a few places that appeared no more alpine than this (eg. Crater Lake, Skotchman Pk.) but I wouldn't expect them. Nonetheless Water Pipits were heard in the cirque, along with Chipmunks, Conys, and Clark Nutcrackers. Oregon Junco were seen near timberline. A Cooper Hawk was seen near the top of the peak. It was pursued by several pipits. Grouse (sp?) droppings were common near the top. Plants included Bistort, Daisies, White Heather (Cassiope) & Bluebell.

The ridge toward the south, <sup>west</sup> leading to Lolo Pk became more barren as it went but trees were still found up to the point where the peak proper turns up abruptly. The ne face is talus slope & has snow patches but no cliffs. The north face has some large cliffs & rock outcrops with large snow patches at their bases. Here I collected 3 adult rosy finches, that appear to be pure or near pure ~~the~~ L.T. tephrocotis, and 2 juveniles. I also saw one very light grey intermediate form, an adult that was feeding young in a nest in a vertical cliff, near its top. Rather late date for nesting!



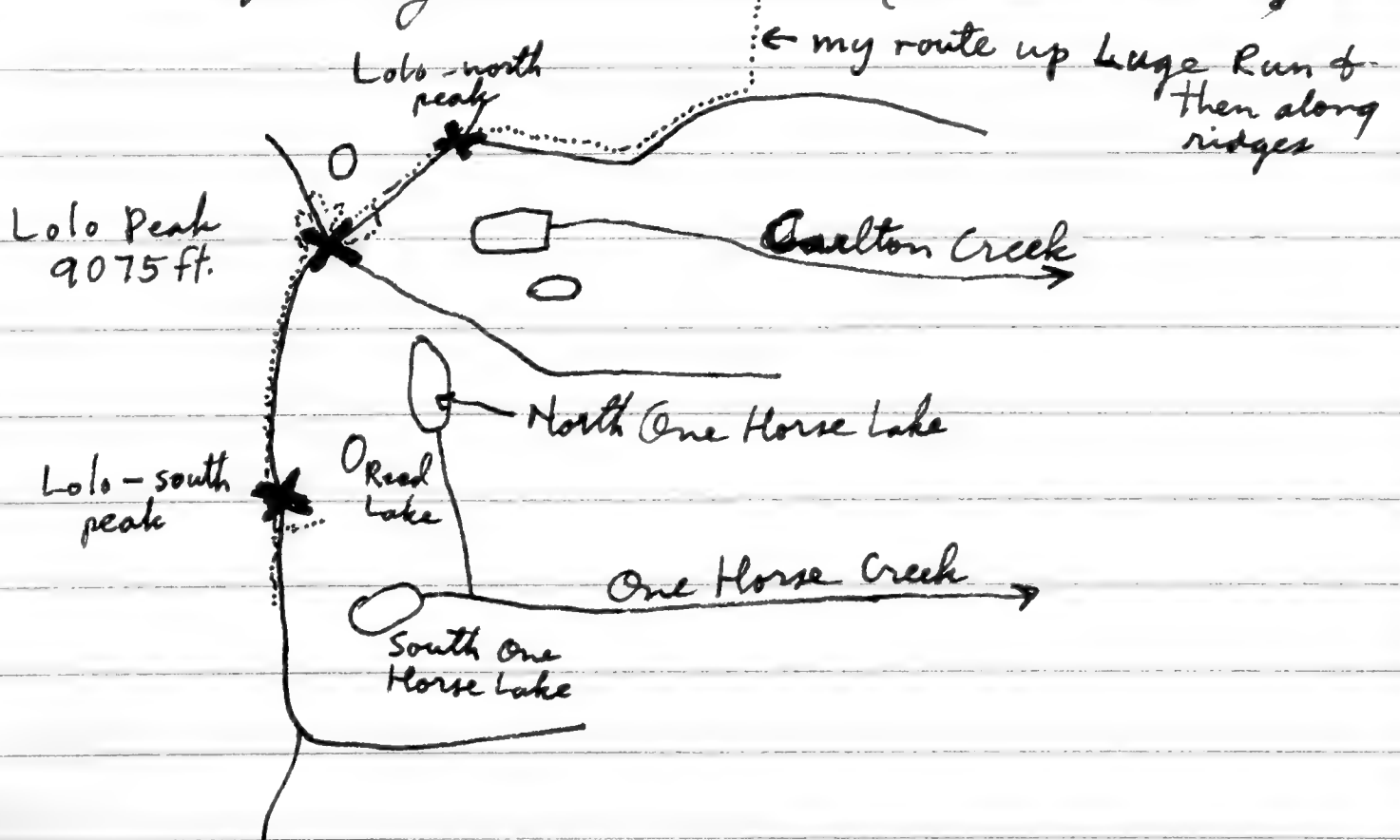
## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug. 6 Lolo Peak, Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

The nest site was totally inaccessible without ropes. Two other juvenill rosy finches were seen but not collected.

Pikas & Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels were the only other vertebrates seen. The top of the peak was nearly barren, having no trees or shrubs, & only widely spaced vegetation. On the north Face there were a few <sup>mtn</sup> Sorrel plants. There is a USFS register on top.

Further south is another slightly lower peak. It is also barren looking & has snow along its east & north east slopes, but there are no extensive cliffs. I heard a few pipits on the flat top of this mtn & heard a cony down the east talus slope but these were the only species of vertebrate found. Vegetation on top included Bluebell (Campanula) and 2 species of White Heather (Cassiope & Phyllodoce).





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug. 7 Missoula, Montana

Spent day stuffing birds, listening to the Republican Convention, etc.

Aug. 8. Missoula, Montana

Spent day working on committee draft for Master's Thesis, answering mail, & etc.

Aug. 9. Missoula, Montana

More work on Master Thesis, more mail, etc.  
Had dinner at Ivan Johnsons. Skinned birds all evening.

Aug. 10. Missoula to Trapper Pk, Montana

Scattered clouds in morning around Missoula. Drove south on US 93 & run into rain. Clouds were obscuring the tops of the peaks from Como Lake south. I stopped at Darby Ranger Station to check on weather forecast. They claimed it wasn't raining & would continue clear through tonight! However I didn't believe them & I kept my raincoat on. They suggested another route to the north face of Trapper Peak. The old route was via West Fork Rd, Levene Creek Rd, etc. <sup>(see Aug. 1)</sup> The new route <sup>(Pierce Cr. Rd)</sup> is the second dirt road after you pass the Job Corps Camp going SW on the paved West Fork Road. This road goes up Pierce Creek & crests a ridge. ~~Then~~ The ridge could then be followed cross-country & then descended into the cirque holding Baker & Gem Lakes, etc. This would save climbing as high as Trapper Pk if the rosy finches are actually below in the cirque.

I drove on up West Fork Rd & followed the old





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Aug 10 Missoula to Trapper Peak, Montana

route up Levene & Troy creeks to the trail head and then loaded my pack & hiked up the trail toward Trapper Peak. I didn't get on the trail until 4:50 PM. The trail starts off as if it were going to ~~Missoula~~ do all the climbing in the first mile (or is it that I'm just that out of shape?). It ascends up a <sup>broad</sup> ridge, gradually passing beyond Lodgepole pine into White-bark pine. The trees become shorter, the stands more open, Red Heather becomes common, & the trail becomes less distinct so that one must follow red &/or blue flagging on trees. Finally the trail breaks into an open alpine slope of crushed & broken rock & sparse vegetation. I crested the ridge which runs east from Trapper Peak at the upper (westmost) edge of the Krumholz & I left my pack there. I then hiked the ridge west over one summit, down & up again to the true summit <sup>of Trapper Pk.</sup> Whereas the south side of this ridge was a gradually slope with low trees, the north face was vertical with considerable snow below. North below where I left my pack is Gem & Middle lakes. Just ~~east~~ <sup>further east,</sup> of this is an unnamed lake & Baker lake. A beautiful basin. <sup>up the north face to</sup> Snow reached the ridge top near this spot & at a number of other locations to the west toward Trapper Peak. Another lake could be seen north of the summit of Trapper Pk. Water Pipits were occasionally heard (not abundant) on the open



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Aug 10. Missoula + Trapper Peak, Montana  
 south slope of the peak. Conys were heard along the summit. Hoary Marmots could be heard within the large cirques on the north of the ridge. An ~~adult~~ Rosy Finch fed a young bird partway down the north face, but they both flew down the cliffs before I could raise my binoculars to see what species they were (they were out of shotgun range). Another rosy finch was heard far down the north face.

The weather remained threatening when I returned to my pack at 9:30 PM. It had sprinkled on the hike up & had obviously rained hard earlier in the day. Thunder could be heard to the sw. I ignored the <sup>weather</sup> signs & threw out my sleeping bag on the ridge top & ate dinner in bed. Stars came out above but the sky was black to the east, south, & west. Amazingly still air for a mtn. top. Below I could see lights from Darby & Hamilton, & in the opposite direction, a light at Boulder Pt. Lookout. <sup>Long</sup> ~~Three~~ <sup>cared</sup> Owls circled low overhead & I collected one of them. A beautiful location & an interesting night.

Aug 11 Trapper Peak, Ravalli Co., Montana  
 Up early & hiked down (east) along the ridgetop listening down the north face for rosy finches. Continued east until nearly above the unnamed lake <sup>(8400 ft.)</sup>. The cliffs are well developed & there are large snow patches below the cliffs & also along the north lip of the ridge. However the ridge is crested with pine trees coming up the south slope and this



# Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

Aug 11 Trapper Pk., Ravalli Co., Montana (cont.)

Location is probably a little low for rosy finches. None were heard. I hiked back to camp & then on west up the ridge to the 1st summit (East summit). From here I could hear distant chirps of rosy finches far down the north face, but I couldn't see any birds. I continued west down to the saddle between the two peaks & all the while could hear rosy finches far below. I climbed down the north face from the saddle, following a route starting a little east of the large snow bank (which runs west from the saddle) & climbing down & laterally east across the face of the East summit until I reached the cirque floor. In route I heard many Hoary Marmots, Conies, & Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels and a few Water Pipits. The bottom of the cirque, as well as its head (west of me) is filled with large boulders. The lower slopes of the north face that I just descended have many small plants growing ~~among~~ <sup>amid</sup> the talus. Species include: Carpet Pink, Willow, Dryas, Shunkweed (Polomonium), Spotted Saxifrage, & Mtn. Sorrel. Clark's Nutcrackers were occasionally seen.

On these lower slopes there were at least 20 adult & 30 young Rosy Finches feeding in a very loose flock. I collected 14 adults & 2



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Aug 11

Trapper Pk, Ravalli Co., Montana (cont.)

young birds. Adults occasionally fed young birds, but the young actively sought food independently also. A creek surfaced through the boulders for a few yards & then disappeared. Adult Rosy Finches were constantly bathing here.

One was seen feeding on Mt. Sorrel Seeds. A Pika was also noticed collecting sorrel seed stalks & carrying them to his hay pile.

Adult, <sup>♂</sup> rosy finches seem to be in molt, but the ♀'s are not.

Thunder storms passed over 3 times during the day & drenched the area, only to pass on & be followed by bright sunshine. I ran out of ammunition & started climbing back out of the cirque at 5:30 PM. By the time I reached camp & loaded up to head back to the car, the sky was dark with threatening clouds. About half way to the car the rain began to fall. Shortly before this, before the trail becomes well defined I passed a lush green meadow (right or west of trail). It contains a good spring & would perhaps make a good campsite below timberline (perhaps  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 miles from car).

Aug 12

Missoula, Montana

Studied for Master's Oral Exam at Univ. of Montana





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug 13. Missoula, Montana

Studied for Masters exam in morning & took exam at 1:30 PM. Committee: James R. Templeton, Burt Pfeiffer, Robert S. Hoffmann, & Meyer Chessin. A rainy day.

Stuffed Rosy Finches all evening.

Aug 14. Missoula, Montana

Stuffed Rosy Finches all day. Arranged for typist to type my final draft of the Master's Thesis. Rained all day. Water standing in streets.

Aug 15. Missoula, Montana.

Rain continued all day. Storm is general over western Montana & out eastward onto plains, therefore no point in starting ~~a~~ a pack trip after rosy finches. Instead I sorted out maps for the next several locations, caught up on mail, & finally labeled the last 4 rolls of Anchnitka Island slides.

Aug 16 Missoula to Superior to North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

Partly cloudy in the morning but the 3-day storm seems to be broken. Drove west of Missoula on Interstate 90 to Superior where I picked up a Superior District, Lolo Nat. Forest Map. Then I drove ~~25~~ 25 miles up the Cedar Creek Road to the Montana - Idaho border at 6400 ft. in the northern Bitterroot Mtns. This is one of the highest points



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Aug 16 Missoula to Superior to north Bitterroot Mtns, Montana  
that ~~the~~ a road attains in the Bitterroot Mtns north of Lolo Pass. While the ~~scenery~~ mountains are considerably lower than so. of Lolo Pass, the lack of green overprint along the main ridges on the Hamilton & Wallace Topographic maps of the 1:250,000 series suggests there may still be alpine habitat here. Also the maps show numerous small lakes on the north sides of the main ridges suggesting the presence of cirques.

The previously mentioned pass lies directly above (so.) Missoula Lake & is west of Oregon Pk (7000 ft.). A trail & jeep road takes off up the ridge to the northwest. The road peters out but the trail continues for 2 miles ending at the nearest of 2 lakes (Bonanza Lakes) on the north side of the ridge. A branch of the trail descends to the lake & another continues on the ridge. I followed the trail past Bonanza Lakes until I was directly above Lost Lake. Total distance one way was 3 to 4 miles. This ridge forms the Idaho - Montana border. It is timbered on the south side & is steeper, more shaded, & is covered with low vegetation on the north side. Sometimes the trees (Lodgepole Pine, Subalpine Fir) reach the ridge top, but for most of its length they do not. Vegetation on the north slopes & ridge crest includes: yarrow, False dandelion (*Agoseris*), Bear Grass, Mtn. Harebell, Angelica, Red Indian Paint Brush, St. Johns Wort, dwarf red



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
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Aug 16 Missoula to Superior to north Bitterroot Mtns, Montana  
 huckleberry, western pasque flower, blue gentian, everlasting,  
 & a tall (1 foot) red heather). Pine Siskins & Cassin's  
Finches were seen among the trees. Clark's  
Nutcracker was heard down the north slopes.  
Conys were heard from rock slides & rock outcrops  
 along the top & north slope of the ridge.

The vegetation was distinctly sub alpine  
 in nature. The most ~~likely~~ nearly alpine locations  
 were <sup>①</sup> the head of the west-most Bonanza Lake where  
 there is a large snowbank & a large talus slope  
 leading down toward the lake, <sup>+</sup> <sup>②</sup> steep slopes & cliffs  
 leading down toward 2 small ponds which were  
 located sw & above Lost Lake. These are at approx 6600 ft  
 & the ridge above is over 7000 ft. There are many large  
 snow banks just above these ponds & another along the  
 ridge top. It is clear that the sun only briefly  
 reaches this slope & that vegetation here is seasonally  
 behind the other parts of the ridge that have been  
 seen. This second location is probably the most  
 adequate <sup>of the 2</sup> for rosy finches since it has more snow  
 & steeper cliffs, however there is no real alpine  
 vegetation. No rosy finches were seen or heard.

To the nw. Eagle Cliff Pk (7543 ft) could be  
 seen to have 2 snow patches on its se side.  
 Since it is the highest peak in that direction  
 & has a lake on its north slope (Cliff Lake), it  
 seems possible that it may have ~~some~~ more



# Journal

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Aug 16. Missoula to Superior to north Bitterroot Mtns, Montana  
nearly alpine habitat on it.

To the sw, Illinois Pk (7690 ft.) can be seen. It is the tallest in the area & has a tall Lookout tower on top. A trail leads to it from Freezeout Summit (6200 ft.) on the road connecting Cedar Creek Rd to Trout Creek Rd. There are extensive cliffs & several large snow patches on the nw face of Illinois Pk.

I drove down the Cedar Creek Rd, then east over Freezeout Summit to Trout Creek & camped.

Aug 17 North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

I had intended to hike up Illinois Pk to hunt for Rosy Finches this morning but the weather changed abruptly. The sky was clear when I went to bed, but now it is dark and raining since at least 6 AM.

I drove up the Trout Creek Rd to Hoodoo Pass (5900 ft.) and took an unmarked dirt road up to the se toward the higher mtns shown on the Hamilton 1:250,000 topographic map. The road was too muddy & slick. The VW couldn't get adequate traction & I backed down again. These ~~area~~ higher mtns appear <sup>on the map</sup> nearly as extensive as the area to the nw (Illinois Pk to Ward Pk). ~~the map~~. That is the map shows no green overprint, & there are many small lakes on the north slope of the ridge, and there are several points well above 7000 ft. The Hoodoo Pass area is a low timbered part





# Journal

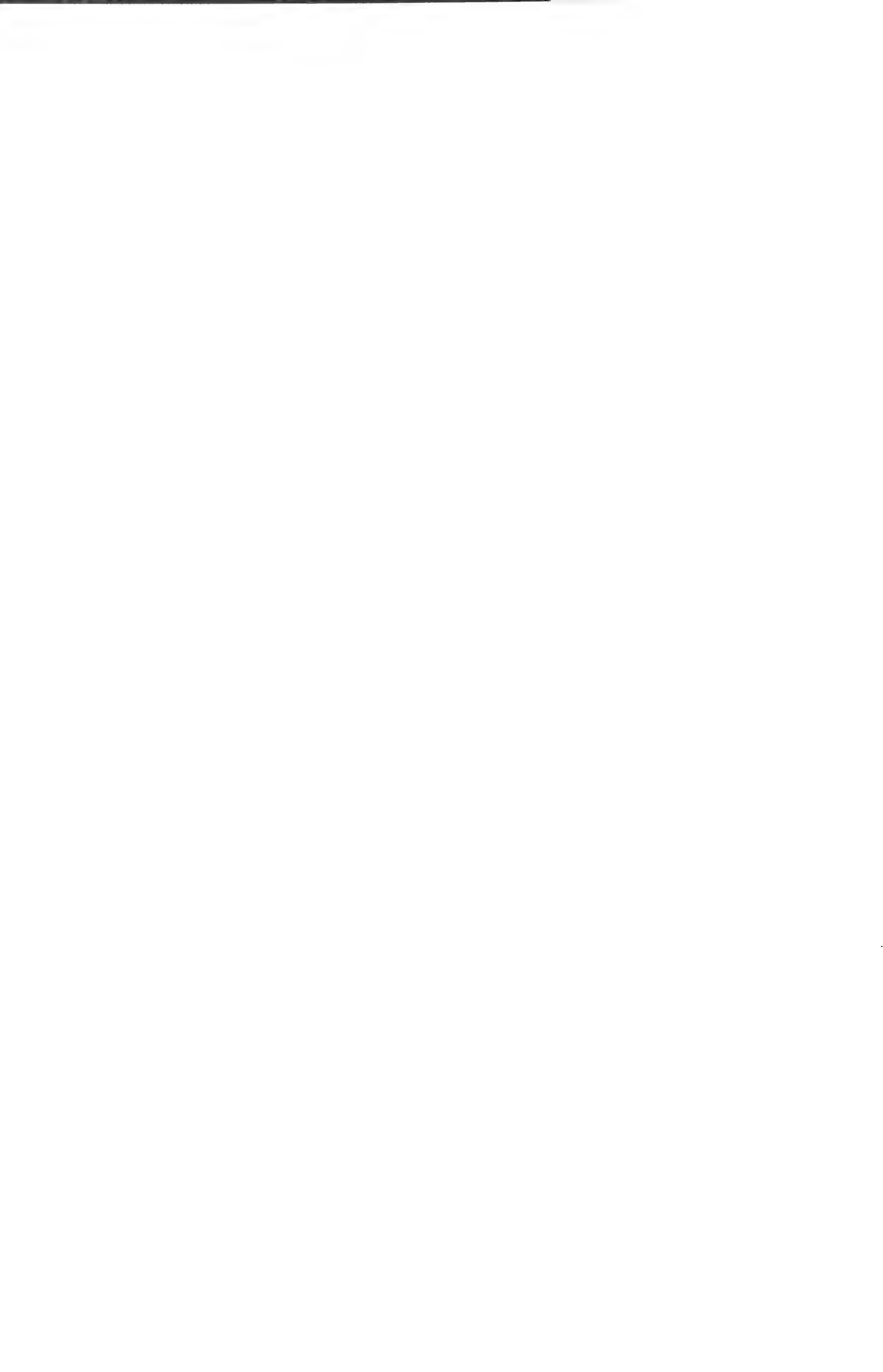
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Aug. 17 North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

of the backbone of the Bitterroots that lies between these 2 higher areas.

I drove back down to Superior via the Trout Creek Road (paved much of the way) & stopped at the Superior District Ranger Station to check on the weather forecast: 3 days of continuous rain all over western Montana. The lookouts have all been brought down since no lightning is expected & the fire danger has already dropped from Extreme to Medium. Drove west on Interstate 90 to St. Regis & visited the St. Regis District ranger station to check on the condition of the state line road which runs from Little Joe Mtn on the s.e. to & passed Dominion Pk on the n.w. The road was in good shape so I drove west <sup>2 miles</sup> from St. Regis on Interstate 90 to the Little Joe Creek Rd & then up this road 13 miles (via the North Fork branch of the road) to the state line (summit & backbone of Bitterroot Mtns) at 5600 ft. The ridge at this point is densely forested & totally enveloped in clouds so that I could see little over 100 ft. I turned left & followed the summit road ~~se~~ <sup>se</sup> seven miles to Little Joe Mtn. (7000 ft). The road now continues beyond this point (not shown on the 1966 St. Regis Ranger District Map) apparently as new access roads to an active logging operation. The road is in the forest some distance down the south slope of the ridge the whole way & due to



R.E. Johnson

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Aug 17

North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

The clouds I could never see up slope & thus was totally unable to tell whether any open ridges or alpine country occurred above me. The road up toward Little Joe Mtn is now an unmarked & little traveled narrow side road from the through road to the logging operation se of the mtn. I drove up this road & parked at the end which is over 100 yds se of the peak top. I hiked along the ridge top and apparently covered the highest part of the mtn, however I couldn't see over 50 Ft & even became temporarily lost in route back to the car. Thus I could not be sure that a still higher point a short distance away wasn't missed entirely. What I did see indicated a steep slope of low vegetation on the north face & a wooded south slope. The top was covered with open woods or, <sup>small</sup> open herb covered areas. I could not see down slope on the north far enough to determine if there were steeper slopes, cliffs, or snow below. What I did see was not especially alpine in nature but the possibility does still exist that an alpine cirque existed below. I drove back west again along the state line road to where I first reached it and then continued nw along the road. The road continued in the trees most of the way & as



## Journal

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1968Aug. 17 North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

before, I could not see due to the clouds.

The sequence of peaks (east to west) from Little Joe Mtn to Dominion Pk with altitudes from the Wallace 1:250,000 USGS Topo Map underlined + altitudes from the St. Regis Ranger District 1966 Map in parenthesis:  
 Little Joe Mtn (7000 ft.); Black Pk, 6200; Berge Pk 6200 (6186);  
 Flattop Mtn, 6200; Ward Pk 7000, (7312); <sup>Eagle Pk;</sup> Gold Pk, ~~7000~~;   
 Craddock Pk 6200, (6276); Wishard Pk, 6200; Quarles Pk, 5566; Crittenden Pk, 6400, (6416); Dominion Pk, 6032.

The points of most likely interest are those above 7000 ft, i.e. Little Joe Mtn already mentioned and the Ward Pk - Gold Pk area. From a point east of Ward Pk along the road, steep rock faces and cirque lakes can be seen. Nearer the peak the road approaches to within 100 ft of a view down upon Square Lake. There are probably no rosy finches near this lake, but there might be at the heads of several smaller lakes (Hub, Mary, etc) due to the east face of Ward. Further along the road a trail is passed which leads to ~~Gold~~ Ward Pk (1 mile), Gold Pk (2 miles) & Up Up Lookout (6 miles). There appears to be some inconsistency regarding the naming of the peaks. There are three named points on the maps. Ward Pk seems agreed upon. The second two are Eagle Pk (7333) + Gold Pk (7088), 6800. Gold Peak is certainly more than a mile beyond Ward Pk on the trail & therefore the trail sign must refer





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Aug 17. North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

To Eagle Pk. Since Gold Pk is merely the end of a ridge off Eagle Pk & the site of a lookout, it seems possible that the name Gold Pk might be applied to either the main pk<sup>(ie Eagle Pk)</sup> or to the lookout location which are approx. one mile apart.

Further around Ward peak on the road a point is reached where one can look down upon Clear Lake. The view in the picture below is much better than the cloudy one I saw, but it is not clear from either the picture or my own observations if there is appropriate habitat for rosy finches.



Clear Lake





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug 17 North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

From the road in the clouds, the remainder of the ridge appeared to be forested. However twice a spur road lead up onto points which had been lookout tower locations in past times. The open forest-free tops may have been artificially cleared to make ready for these lookouts. There were some old tree stumps lending support to such a view. <sup>On</sup> The 1st of these points, Quarles Pk., grass, yarrow, alum root, aster, huckleberry, indian paint brush, & everlasting covered the top. The other peak (Dominion Pk) was covered by grass, yarrow, bear-grass, lupine, & indian paint brush. Visibility was so poor at both locations that I could not tell what kind of slope or vegetation formed their north slopes.

I returned to Interstate 90 via the windy Dominion Creek Rd. Further NW along the Bitterroot Mtns there is another mountain of interest (Wonderful Pk & associated pks - max. 6838 ft) which is not reached by this summit road. The Wallace 1:250,000 topo map shows no green overprint for this area & 2 large cirques on north slopes containing small lakes.

I drove east to Superior & up Trout Creek to Trout Creek Campground for the night.

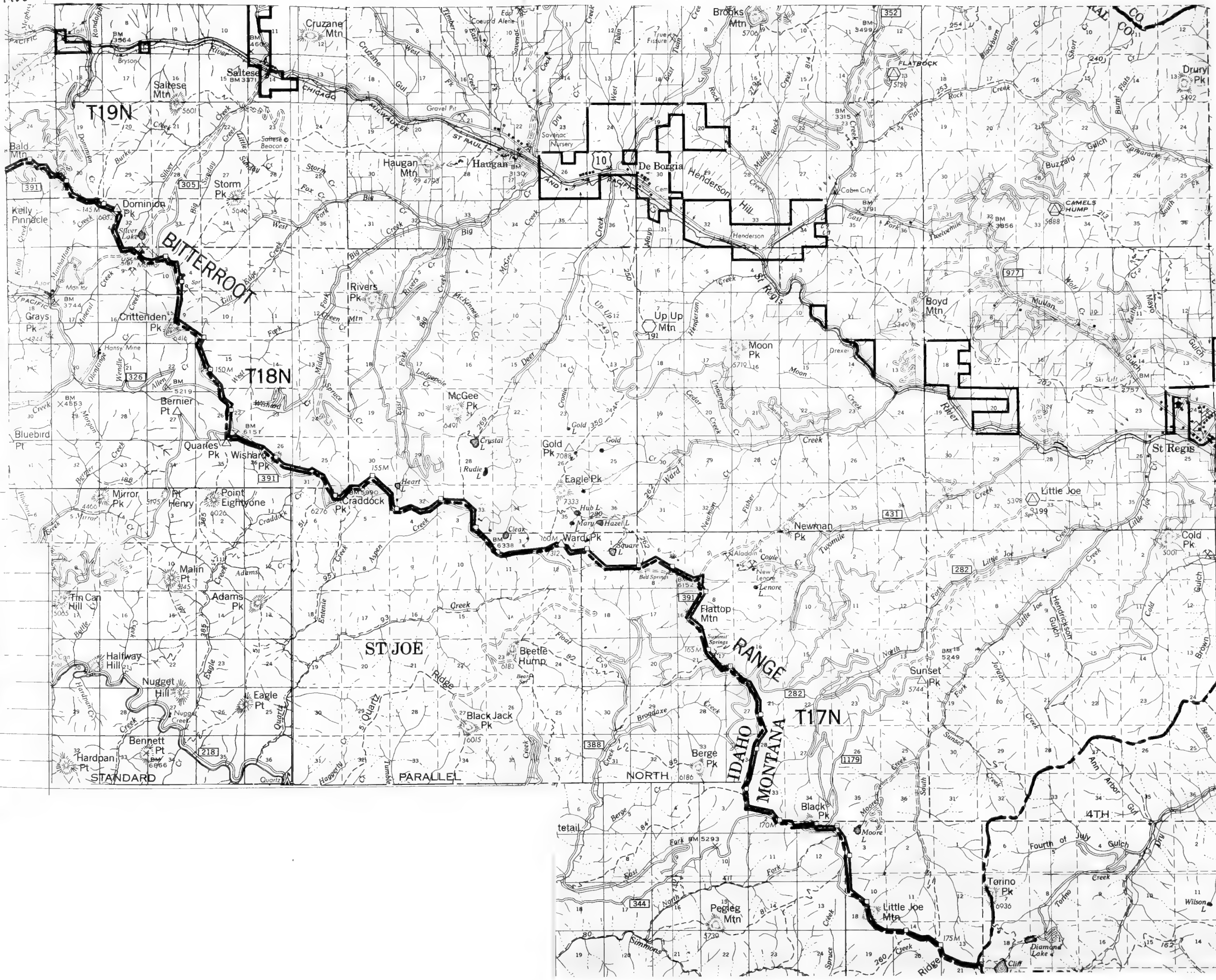


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# North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

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## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968Aug. 18 North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana (Illinois Pk.)

Another rainy day with low clouds, but for some reason Illinois Pk. <sup>(7690 ft.)</sup> seemed to be free of clouds when the other peaks were completely mantled with them. I drove back to Freezeout Summit (see Aug. 16) & drove up the ridge about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile toward Illinois Pk. Here the road ends & the trail continues for another  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles to the summit. Rain fell (& some hail & snow) on the hike up but visibility remained good. The north side of the ridge, <sup>the trail</sup> follows up to the peak is steep & has several snow filled chimneys that extend ~~500~~ ft. down to a wide boulder filled cirque below. Aside from these chimneys, most of the north face is covered with krumholz vegetation. The top of the peak is bald, but surrounded closely by trees (White-barked Pine, Mtn. Hemlock, Lodgepole Pine, Spruce, & Subalpine Fir). A short distance west of the lookout tower another cirque, <sup>(A on sketch map)</sup> is seen, that is 150 yds across at the top of the 1st scallop in the ridge & has a large snow patch part way down the face. Other smaller patches are located at the ridge top & at lower levels. At the bottom are several mine dumps & shafts. Further to the southwest are several smaller scallops also leading into this cirque. The left wall of this cirque formed by the Montana Idaho border (the





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Aug 18

Northern Bitterroot Mtns, Montana (Idaho Pk)  
crest of the Bitterroots) and a trail follows  
this ridge west. I ~~saw~~<sup>sat</sup> at the head of this  
cirque & ate lunch. A juvenile Rosy Finch  
~~flew~~<sup>came</sup> up from near the snow patch below  
& landed at various points on the cliffs,  
then on a tree, & finally flew toward the  
lookout tower & out of sight. I was quite  
surprised as this looked like far from  
optimum habitat. Trees line the cliff tops  
& no real alpine development occurs. Even so  
there are ample cliffs, snow patches, etc.

The following plant species occur near the top of  
the peak: dwarf huckleberry, creeping juniper,  
red heather, Glacier Lily, Blue Gentian, beargrass,  
Juncus, bistort, harebell, yarrow, Agoseris, Menziesia,  
paint brush, western pasque flower, yellow columbine,  
Mertensia, false hellebore, Lyall Penstemon, a yellow  
penstemon, willow weed, buttercup, St. John's Wort,  
aster.

West of this cirque (A), on the west side of  
the summit ridge of the Bitterroot Mtns, is  
another large cirque<sup>(B)</sup>, filled with talus & boulders  
& with slopes of cliffs, trees, herbaceous vegetation  
on wet soil, & dense ericaceous vegetation depending  
on where one looks. Several snow patches lay at  
the bottom. Three Rosy Finches (juveniles) were  
flying about with 5 Clarke Nutcrackers. They





## Journal

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Aug. 18 North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana (Idaho Pk)  
 landed in old snags & I collected one Rosy Finch.  
 The others flew up to the east & disappeared.  
 Shortly another juvenile bird flew up from  
 below & flew n.e. Later 3 others appeared  
 from below & flew from place to place in  
 the cirque, sometimes landing in isolated clumps  
 of trees, then later dropping to the ground  
 to feed, then back to the trees, & finally off  
 to a new location entirely. I was never able  
 to get close enough to collect them. Congers  
 were common in the rock slides & I heard  
 one Rock Wren call from the bottom of the  
 cirque.

I hiked the Ida-Montana border ridge  
 west above the mines, then back east & out  
 the west running ridge that forms the left  
 side of cirque B. This ridge leads to a lower  
 peak, <sup>Godd Crown Pk (7374)</sup> that still holds a little snow but I  
 did not hike that far. Several steep chimneys  
 lead from this ridge down into B & I  
 descended one of these. I encountered 8 or 9  
 juvenile Rosy Finches on a <sup>slope covered with herbs</sup> ~~barren~~  
 on wet dirt. They took flight before I could  
 fire & they remained aloof for the next half  
 hour when rain set in & the clouds lowered  
 (8:30 PM) & I took off for the car.

All the Rosy Finches seen today were juveniles.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
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Aug. 18 North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana, (Illinois Pk)  
and this is unusual. Probably, however,  
there were adults around somewhere. I did not  
descend fully to the bottom of either cirque &  
this could have been a mistake. More than  
likely the birds do breed here & if so there  
were surely 2 or 3 successful nests judging  
from the number of juveniles. On the other  
hand perhaps these juveniles are fall wanderers.  
They are well along in development, being  
already in molt to adult plumage & not  
being fed by adults. The nearest "good"  
habitat for rosy finches is Lolo Peak, 50 air  
miles to the southeast.

Other bird species seen near the top of  
Illinois Peak were: Robin (one), Golden Eagle (one),  
Audubon Warbler (5), Mtn. Chickadee (2), Mtn.  
Bluebird (one dead), Pine Siskin (30), Oregon Junco  
(30), Clark Nutcracker (15), Wilson Warbler (2),  
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (2), & one Accipiter (sp.).  
Chipmunks & Columbian Ground Squirrels were  
common. On the hike down I saw 2  
Elk, a Spruce Grouse, a Blue Grouse, a  
Townsend Solitaire, & a Yellow-bellied  
Sapsucker.

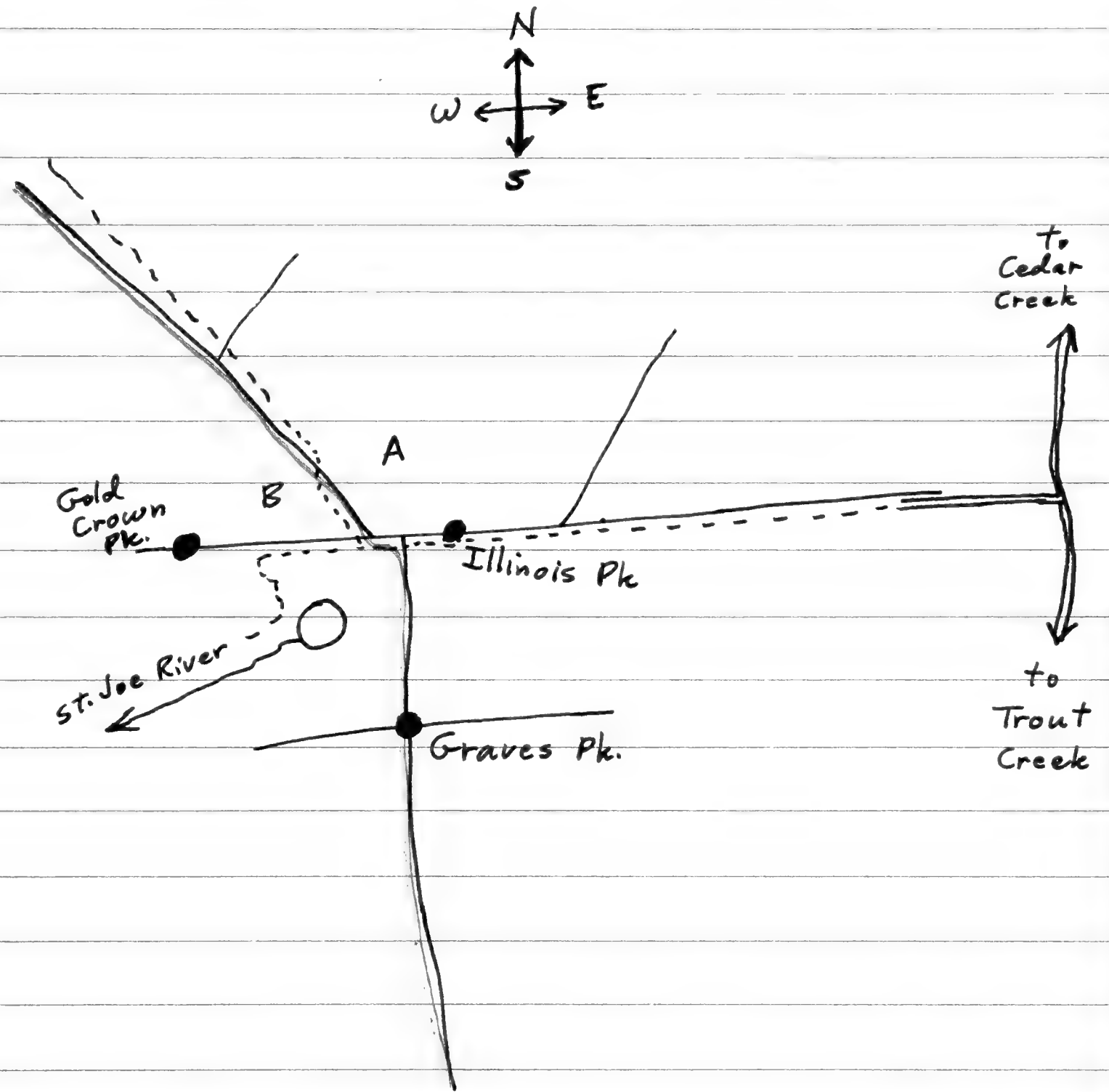
I drove back to Missoula & Pattee canyon  
in the rain for the night.



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
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Aug. 18 North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana (Illinois Pk)



## Legend

- = ridge
- = trail
- == = road
- = peak
- = Montana-Idaho border

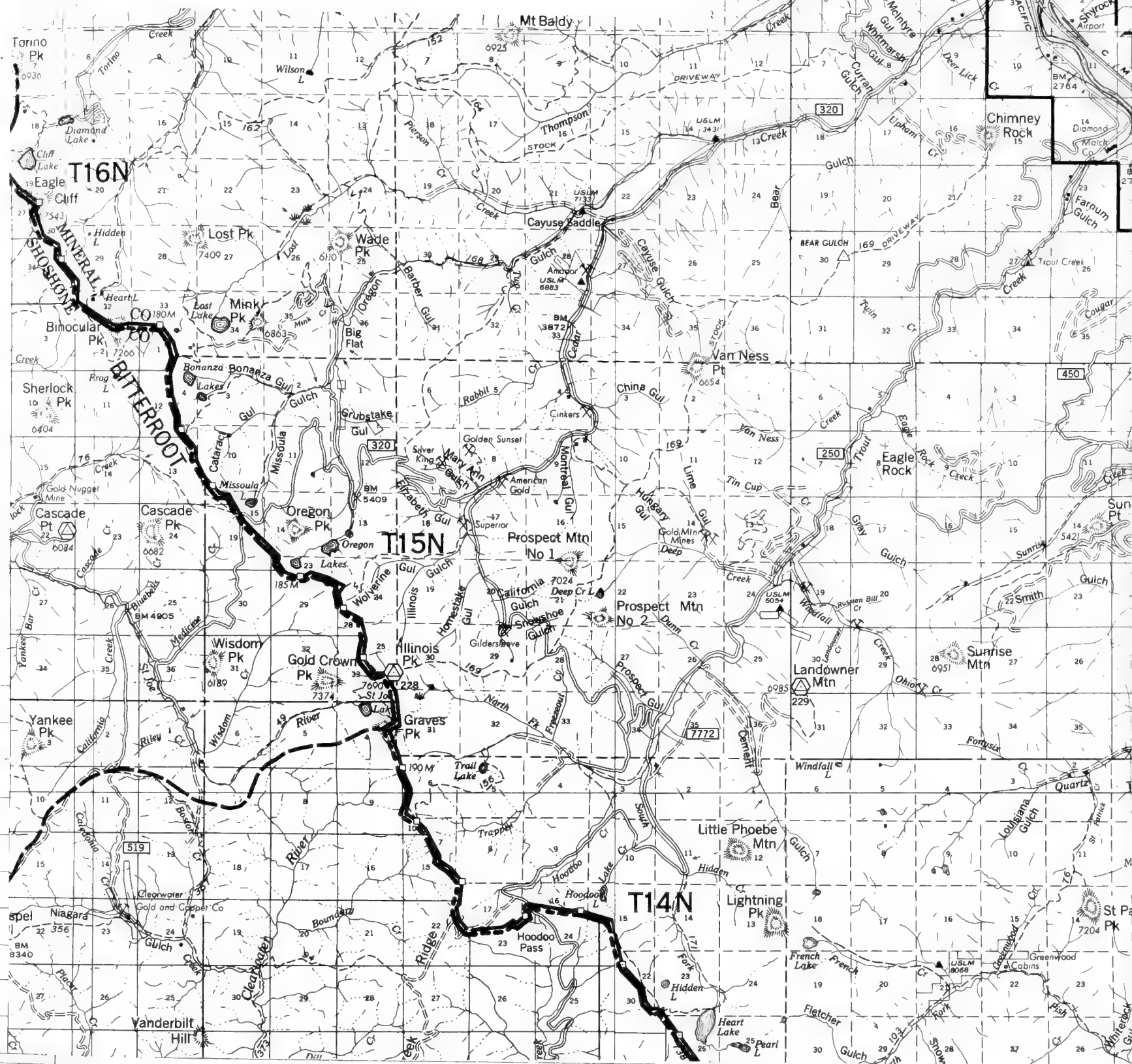


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1968

North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana

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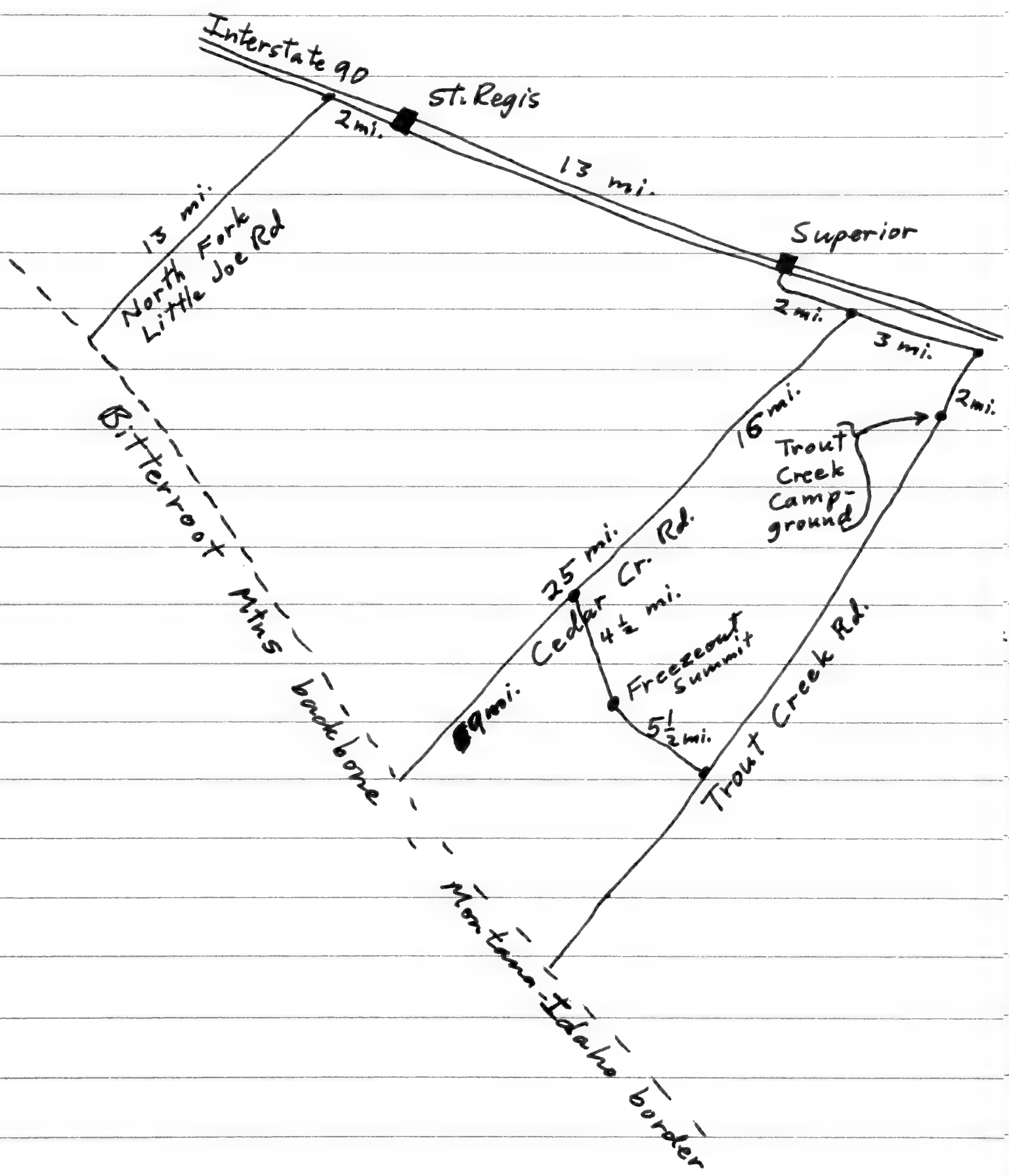


# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
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## North Bitterroot Mtns, Montana





# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Aug 19. Missoula, Montana

Rain continues. I stuffed my one bird, got a hotel room so I could dry out equipment, & picked up my Master's thesis manuscript, proof read it, etc.

Aug. 20 Missoula, Montana

Rain continues off & on. More forms to fill out for the master's degree. Miscellaneous other chores (laundry, etc).

Aug. 21 Missoula, Montana

Rain continues, low clouds, etc. Wrote letters.

Clearing in afternoon. New snow on Lolo Peak.

Aug 22. Missoula, Missoula Co., to Copper Creek Campground, Granite Co., <sup>Montana</sup>

Prediction was for improved weather (20% change of rain) but that 20% came down hard all morning and well into the afternoon! I decided to drive to the anaconda Range and wait out the storm at the road head near the trail to Edith & Big Johnson Lakes. Thus I drove south from Missoula on US 93 through Hamilton to Montana Hwy 38, where I turned left and drove toward Skalkaho Pass (7250ft) on the crest of the Sapphire Mtns. Three or four miles before reaching the pass, the road passes Skalkaho Falls, a very pretty cascading waterfall. A mile from the pass I turned off to the left on a small dirt road leading to Dam Creek Lake. I got stuck in



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Aug 22. Missoula, Missoula Co., to Copper Creek Campground, Granite Co., Mont.  
 the mud on a rough stretch of road & it took two hours to free my car by shoveling out a new road. The lake behind the small earth dam was very low & extensive mud flats were exposed. There were at least a dozen Spotted Sandpipers feeding along the water's edge. There were also several Robins, a Clark Nutcracker and several Oregon Juncos on the mudflats feeding. The object in driving to the lake was to obtain a view northward &/or westward at Dome Shaped Mtn (8694 ft.) & Skalkaho Mtn (8532) respectively. A semi open ridge could be seen to the north of the lake which was probably the ridge between these two peaks & is at an elevation of about 8000 ft. To the right of this was a higher wooded ridge which no doubt is the main crest of the Sapphire Mtns, however Dome Shaped Mtn itself could not be seen. Skalkaho Mtn was too far to the left to be seen due to intervening ridges & forest. Therefore it ~~was~~ not ~~the~~ determined if either of these two peaks appeared to be alpine in nature. The Butte 1:250,000 USGS Topo Map shows several other high peaks in the range but located south of Skalkaho Pass: Fox Peak (8788 ft.), Congdon Pk (8870 ft.), & an unnamed pk (8995 ft.).

I returned to the main road & continued over



R.E. Johnson  
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Aug 22. Missoula, Missoula Co. to Copper Creek Campground, Granite Co., Montana  
Shalkeaho Pass. There is a trail leaving this road  
opposite Crystal Springs Campground which leads  
to Dome Shaped Mtn (8 miles), Stone Lake (4 miles)  
↓ Divide Trail (5 miles). Continuing down the  
main road a rocky bald mtn is seen ahead.  
This is probably Mount Emerine (8687 ft.).  
Continued down the road, crossed Rock Creek  
& drove on to US 10A, then north to Philipsburg  
for gas and then returned again to Rock Creek  
& drove up the Middle Fork past Moose Lake  
to the start of the trail to Big Johnson Lake.

Mileages: Hi Line Trail 4  
Edith Lake 5  
Big Johnson Lake 6  
Pintlar Pass 8

Drove back again past Moose Lake & turned west  
on the Frogpond Basin Rd to Copper Creek Campground.  
The sky at this time (9 PM) was clear with stars  
showing overhead, however clouds are visible  
in the corners of the sky.

Aug 23. Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana

Clouds increasing throughout the morning & finally  
totally overcast by mid-afternoon. Took trail from Middle  
Fork of Rock Creek to Big Johnson Lake as planned. After the  
1st mile there is plenty of <sup>drinking</sup> water from small streams  
crossing the trail. The trail is generally easy and in  
the forest. I passed 2 groups of forest service





## Journal

R.E. Johnson

Aug. 23

Anaconda - Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (cont.)

personnel on the way out from a week of trail work in the storm. They were snowed in! The trail crew ran onto a large group of people (pack outfit) at Big Johnson lake who were using a power saw (illegal in the wilderness area). They told them the saw shouldn't be used & got lots of lip out of it. <sup>The packers</sup> ~~they~~ refused to identify themselves. So, on my arrival, I checked to see who they were. Turns out they are the American Forestry Association trail group (Trail Riders or Wilderness Riders) packed out with a Mr. Ritchie (sp?) who normally packs Ward Russell into the Bitterroot country each Fall elk hunting! The AFA has been known to have a weak view of wilderness values, use, & preservation, so it all figures. <sup>neither</sup> ~~I~~ saw, nor <sup>heard a</sup> saw, but the fresh sawdust & large wood stacks suggest they may have had one. They have 85<sup>±</sup> head of stock! I don't know how many people

Birds around the lake include: Spotted Sandpiper, Stellar Jay, Clark Nutcracker, Mallard ♀ (with 2♂ ducks with green instead of blue in the wing. Otherwise they were very similar). The lake is surrounded by forest (Lodgepole Pine, Engelman Spruce, Subalpine Fir) except at the upper end where a meadow skirts the shore (the site of the large camp). Meadow species include Yarrow, Aster, Red Heather, Dwarf Huckleberry, Bog Orchid, & Elephant Head, & Blue Gentian. Mosquitoes were common & the 1st I've seen this summer.

Trail mileages as judged by trail signs aren't too



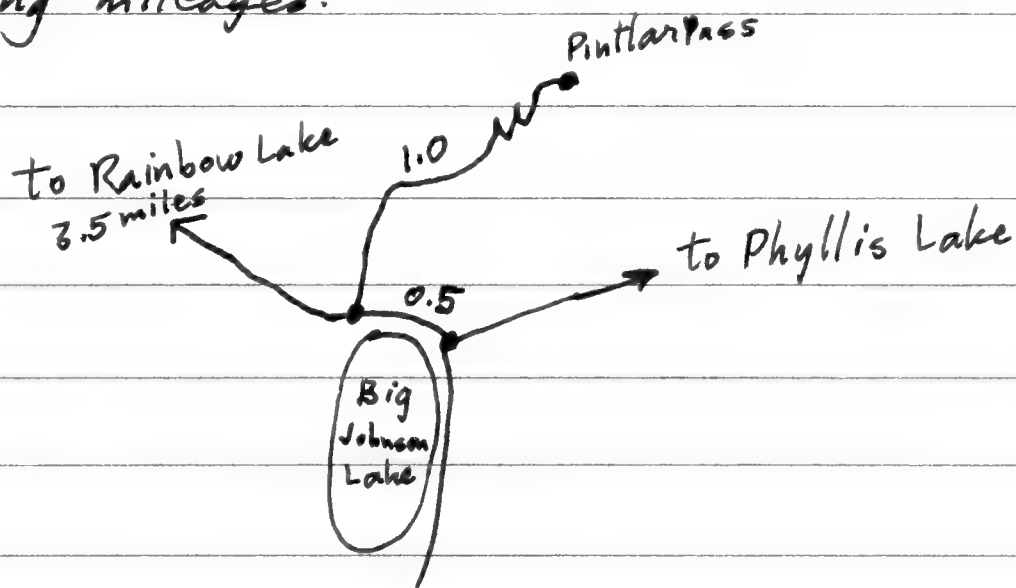
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Aug. 23 Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (cont.)

consistent. A sign 3 miles from my car, located at the trail jct. of the ~~road~~<sup>trail</sup> to Edith Lake with the trail to Big Johnson Lake, reads 2 miles to Edith L. & 2 miles to Big Johnson. According to this the distances are equal to both lakes. This may have resulted from relocation of part of the trail.

Trail signs at Big Johnson Lake give the following mileages:



I hiked on up  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way to Pintlar Pass & camped in some trees on the edge of an open meadow, which contains a small stream. Columbian Ground Squirrels were abundant on the meadow. Glacier Lily seed heads & Bear Grass were common. I hiked on to the pass without my pack & then hiked up the ridge to the ne to an unnamed pt (9400 ft.) where Chipmunks & Longes were very common. Timber (White-barked Pine) reached to 9200 ft on the south slope. The top was very rocky with several slopes of earth & herbaceous growth. A group of 15 Immature Rosy Finches were seen off & on at various points near the top. I collected 3 birds. No



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug. 23 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (cont.)

adults were seen. Young are in molt & feeding actively on the slopes, mainly on moist soil substrate & not on the rocks. Clark Nutcrackers were common near Timberline. A few snatches of goat wool were found on small trees along the ridge between the pass & the top of the peak. I headed back down at about 8:15 PM. By 9:30 PM the sky was again 100% clear. Heavy winds blow off & on after this time.

Aug. 24 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana

Hiked up to Pintlar Pass again & this time headed SW toward East Pintlar Pk (9486 ft.). Today is clear & windy. There are beautiful scattered cumulus clouds & I heard Mtn. Chickadees near camp before I left & Water Pipits & Clark Nutcrackers just below the pass on the north side. The meadow near camp extends up-slope to the pass. On the pass I saw one Red-breasted Nuthatch working at the base of a 5 ft. tall White-bark Pine tree. Several Pine Siskins were heard & a flock of about 15 ~~the~~ Rosy Finches flew from the north slopes of the ridge leading to East Pintlar to the west slope of the unnamed peak I climbed yesterday evening. These all appeared to be juveniles. After a short stop they again flew northward along the face of that peak at 9000 ft. This may have been the same group I saw yesterday. As I continued up the ridge Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels



# Journal

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Aug. 24

## Anaconda - Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (cont.)

became abundant (Columbian Ground Squirrels are common at the pass). Down the steep & cliffy north face of the ridge & occasionally heard Hoary Marmots. One was seen only a short ways down the face, but others were apparently far below in the talus & boulder bottom of a large cirque. A group of 11 Rosy Finches flew west along the face of these cliffs at 8500 - 9000 ft elevation. Again these could be the same birds as before. Some at least were juveniles, probably all were. Near the top of East Pintlar Pk one juvenile Rosy Finch fed on the more gradual south slope. A large gray (underside) Accipiter dove just south of the pk top but pulled out of the dive 10 ft. from the ground surface.

After all the bad weather, today seems fantastic. The view from the top of East Pintlar Pk includes, <sup>(clockwise from north)</sup> Warren Pk (10,456 ft.), high backbone ridges of the Anaconda Range, [Mc Glaughlin Pk (9483)], an unnamed peak with West Goat Mtn (10,793 ft) peering over the top, the Highland Mtns, Tobacco Root Mtns. (both to ne), Pioneer Mtns (east), the Big Hole Valley extending from the east southward & expanding, the southern Bitterroot Mtns (Lemhi Mtns east of Salmon, Idaho) south of the ~~Big Hole Valley~~ Big Hole Valley, West Pintlar Pk to the south. View to the west includes the whole Bitterroot chain from Boulder & Trooper Pks north





## Journal

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Aug. 24 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (cont.)  
to Lolo Pk.

Small amounts of goat wool were caught on small trees near the ridge that I followed to the pk.

A Cooper Hawk ~~was~~ flew low along the edge of the cliffs & slowly explored several spots among ledges on the Face where Rosy Finches had been feeding only minutes before. It lit at two of these locations. Finally it slowly flew away. A group of about a dozen Rosy Finches were feeding on steep slopes & ledges on the north Face & among them was at least one adult, which I collected. It fed several of the young birds & these birds also actively foraged. I collected one of the young birds fed by the adult. Just prior to this I had seen a similar group foraging on the west shoulder of the peak. There was one adult that I could see & the rest were juvs. This may have been the same group. Also on the west shoulder was a Water Pipit carrying food in its bill. I walked upslope & out of sight. When it again appeared it no longer had the food. This behavior suggests a nest but I couldn't find it. Very late for a nest. I collected the pipit.

A Golden Eagle flew (with wings bent sharply as in a partial dive) low over the south slope of the peak. A Prairie Falcon done at a spot where a meadow west of the pk top comes up to the top of the cliffs of the north Face. It pulled out of the dive only two feet above the meadow and did a "twist" in the air &



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Aug. 24 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (cont.)

appeared to be looking at me. On the meadow I had seen both Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels & Columbian Ground Squirrels.

I continued to see a few juvenile Rosy Finches on the north face of the west shoulder of East Pintlar Pk but no additional adults. The flock of 12± had disappeared also.

I hiked down the ridge leading toward West Pintlar Pk. This leads to a low pass between two lakes, one a lake above Dreamer Lake, the other a small lake draining down toward the Phyllis Lake Trail.

I hiked around the west shore of the lake above Dreamer Lake & listened up-slope for Rosy Finches. I heard the chirping of young birds high up the talus slope so I ascended & eventually collected one adult & one young bird that had just been fed. There were also other young birds hiding some distance away.

I continued west up to the rocky ridge top, then south up the ridge to the top of West Pintlar Pk (9400±). The peak is a large pile of rocks (south slope). The north face has some cliffs & a few good sized snow patches midway down the face toward the lake below. From the top Phyllis Lake, <sup>Sawed Cabin Lake,</sup> Hidden Lake, Ripple Lake & Kelly Lake could be seen.

The peak south of West Pintlar Pk has trees to the top (a lower peak, 9330) but has high cliffs above Hidden Lake & there is still some snow left on that face (n. or nw.).



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Aug. 24 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (cont.)

I hiked down the east talus slopes, then north to a small pond & down creek to Oreamnos Lake, then down trail & up again over Pintlar Pass & back to camp.

The night was clear, windy, and warmer than the previous night.

Aug. 25 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana

Clear weather in the morning. I packed up & hiked back to the car, after a stop to visit the people on the AFA trip. ~~The weather was~~ It didn't seem wise to collect today before hiking out since the warm weather was doing my dead birds no good. There was no snow close to camp that could be used to keep them cold. After arriving at the car I drove back to Copper Creek Campground where I skinned all 8 birds.

Additional notes from the previous few days: Plants in the high meadow where I camped (see Aug. 23): Purple Onion, Red Heather, Glacier Lily (seed pods), Bear Grass (gone to seed), Camas, Valerian, Bistort, Elephant Heads, Rush Cinquefoil, Parnassia, & a white Loosewort. Trees were White-barked Pine, Lodgepole Pine, Engelman Spruce, & Subalpine Fir.

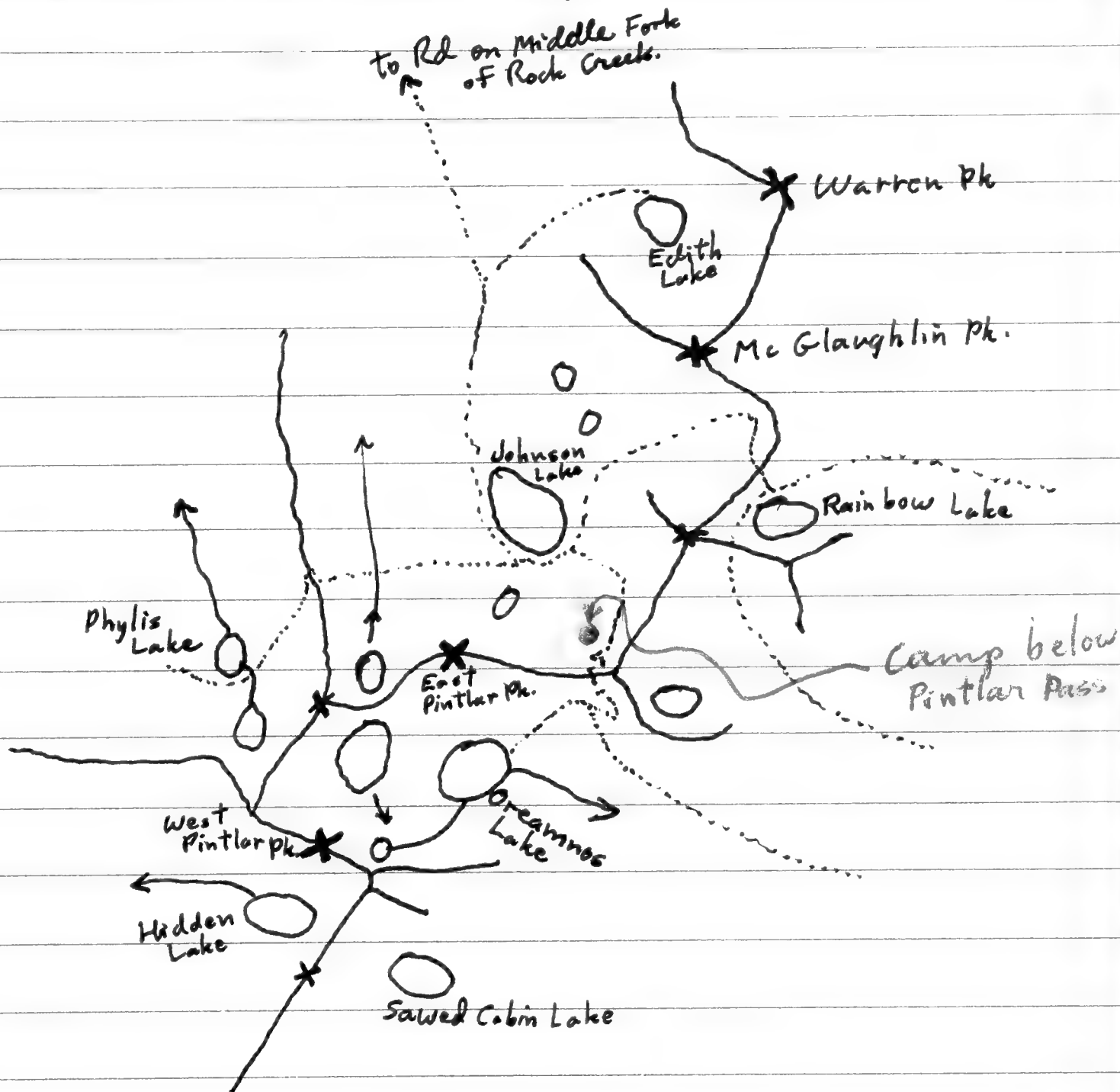


Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

Aug. 23-  
25

Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (cont.)



Legend

→ stream

x summit

— ridge

..... trail





# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
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Aug. 26 Sapphire Mtns, Montana

Drove from Copper Creek Campground up the dirt road to Frogpond Basin which sits adjacent the crest of the Sapphire Mtns. The object was to determine ① if the higher pks of the range (see Aug 22) were accessible via this road and ② if any of them might have rosy finches. There are a number of branches to the road once it enters frogpond basin. I took the leftmost 1st & then gradually worked the roads from left to right. The leftmost road ends up on a <sup>side</sup> ridge which is just to the left of the main ridge of the Sapphire Mtns. An <sup>abandoned</sup> mine (apparently the O'Brien Mine) is located on this road. A trail leaves this road & heads uphill to the right. It is marked "Bitterroot Pass & Hole-in-the Wall." I followed it to the crest of the 1st ridge & then I veered off to hike to the highest peak on that part of the divide. This point is labeled "Frog" on the Philipsburg Ranger District, USFS Map. and has an elevation over 8400 ft. according to the Dillon 1:250,000 Topo map (USGS). The top is a large rock cone which extends down either side of the ridge as very large talus slopes. Small patches of low vegetation occur on the top & in a few locations down the east talus slope. These consist of grasses, bear grass, dwarf huckleberry, & creeping juniper. Trees (White-bark Pine, Subalpine Fir) cover the ridge leading up to the top from the north. Many congs were heard in the rock slides. Clark Nutcrackers & a Townsend Solitaire were seen along the <sup>upper</sup> forest margins. There is no habitat



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
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Aug. 26

Sapphire Mtns, Montana (cont.)

for rosy finches on this or adjacent mtns (no cliffs, alpine vegetation, extensive snow, etc). There is a very small snow patch on the n-w slope of the next peak south, but no cliffs. All the pks to the south appear to be timbered to the top. However a peak to the n-w appears to be barren for its total n-s length of a mile or two & it has several small snow patches on its east face. It appears to be quite steep (approaching cliffs) on its east side. This is apparently the ~~the~~ highest peak in the Sapphire Mtns (8995 ft), mentioned before (Aug. 22). This spot would definitely be worth examining for rosy finches.

I hiked back to the car & drove back out the road. I did not drive out the road to the Lutz Mine since it would only take me to low mtn areas north of the high peak I had just seen. The road to the Montana Prince Mine was blocked by a large fallen tree after I'd driven only a short ways, so that road was also left unexplored.

Finally the rightmost road was followed. The sign said it went to Miller & Townsends Mines (see Philipsburg Ranger District Map). Just prior to reaching these mines the road splits. The ~~right~~ left branch goes to a large abandoned mining operation. The right branch is apparently the ridge trail that barely shows because it parallels



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug. 26 Sapphire Mtn, Montana (cont.)

the county line & is covered by it on the Philipsburg Ranger District map. Unfortunately an extensive mud puddle blocks the route to anything but a 4-wheel drive vehicle. This road or trail apparently would lead me almost to the top of the high peak, but it appears to be 8 or 9 miles distant. Routes to this peak had best be checked out at the district ranger station at Philipsburg before starting to it.

I returned back to Copper Creek, Middle Fork of Rock Creek & finally to US ~~10~~<sup>10</sup>A & drove to Anaconda to pick up a few supplies, mail off some film, & etc. Camped at Spring Hill USFS Campground west of Anaconda on US ~~10~~<sup>10</sup>A

Aug. 27 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana (Storm Lake & vicinity)

Drove up the dirt road to Storm Lake into the north end of the Anaconda Range. This road leaves US 10A just east of Silver Lake. In the 1st mile there are many branches to the road (all unsigned). The correct road is usually the center road & most traveled. It is 9 miles to Storm Lake. The last 1½ miles a very rough & many leave their cars below & hike this portion. I left my VW 1 mile from the lake because of extensive muddy areas in the road at that point. I biked to the lake & then on around the west side & up to Storm Lake Pass (2½ miles from lake to Pass). Initially the trail is in the woods, then it swings upward to the right (west) passing around a high meadow (surrounded by forest on 3 sides & Little Rainbow



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# Journal

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Aug. 27 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana - (Storm Lake & vicinity) mtn on the other [south] side.) & then switch back up the east side of Mt. Ting in an open larch stand. A huge rock slide extends down to the meadow from Little Rainbow Mtn. <sup>chirps & whistles of marmots were heard suggesting the</sup> Many Cory were heard in this slide. A that both yellow-belly & Hoary Marmots were present in the same rockslide. Rock Wren fed on insects in a large snow patch located midway down the mtn. in the rockslide. Clark <sup>alpine</sup> Nutcrackers were common in the larch forest. Storm Lake Pass <sup>(9100 ft.)</sup> is located between Little Rainbow Mtn (10,000 ft.) & Mt. Ting (9857 ft.). Vegetation along the trail below the pass included Valerian, Penstemon viridis, White Heather (Cassiope), Bistort, White housewort, speedwell, paintbrush, bush cinquefoil, Alpine larch, White Bark Pine, & Subalpine Fir. The ~~larch~~ larch forest (trees all short - 20 ft or less) extends up Ting Mtn almost directly below the pass. Further north on the mtn a White-barked Pine forest extends up to an equal elevation.

Vegetation on Storm Lake Pass includes: Red & White Heather (Phyllodoce), a yellow Eriogonum, Dryas, Bistort, Penstemon viridis, White Heather (Cassiope), Engelman Spruce (1-2 ft. tall), Alpine larch, & White Bark Pine. These latter 3 are all short & limited to either the north or south slopes leading down from the pass or a few short trees standing alone on the barren pass. There were a number of Golden Mantled Ground Squirrels near the pass. Three Rosy Finches flew over going east.

Little Rainbow Peak is east of the pass & an easy walk up a meadow, then talus & rock slope. The south





## Journal

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Aug. 27 Anaconda - Pintlar Wilderness, Montana - (Storm Lake & vicinity)  
side of the peak has pine trees to 9300 ft. in places.  
The north face is the cliffs & huge rockslides below the  
cliffs that I noted earlier while approaching Storm Lake  
Pass. I hiked from the pass to the summit of  
Little Rainbow Mtn and noted the following animals:  
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, Chipmunk, Cony, Hoary  
Marmot, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Water Pipit and  
Rosy Finch. Two additional plants were noted: Carpet  
Pink & Skunk Weed.

Most of the day was spent following a loose  
flock of Immature Rosy Finches back & forth over the  
cliffs & ledges of the north face of the mtn near the  
ridgetop connecting the pass & the summit of Little Rainbow  
Mtn. The flock <sup>included</sup> ~~was~~ perhaps 20 individuals. Occasionally  
an adult was seen (may have been more than one  
but never were there two in sight at one time)  
& it appeared to feed elsewhere & then fly to this  
flock & sometimes feed an Immature bird, then feed with  
the flock for a while & finally disappear. It definitely  
was not making regular frequent feeding trips  
from a feeding area to the flock to feed young birds.  
The flock was sufficiently wary that I had trouble  
approaching close enough to ~~the~~ collect birds. Only  
one adult was collected, but 8 Immatures were  
collected. One Water Pipit also collected.

I returned down the mtn slope to the pass at  
dusk & arrived at the car in the dark. I drove back



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Aug. 27 Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness, Montana - (Storm Lake & vicinity)  
down canyon to US 10A & to Spring Hill Campground  
for the night. It rained hard that night.

Aug. 28 Anaconda, Deer Lodge Co., Montana (cont.)

Hard rain continues most of the day. At noon  
I drove from the campground to Anaconda & rented  
a motel room for the remainder of the day & that  
night. It had been so dark out in the morning  
that it was nearly impossible to see to skin birds  
in camp. Now in the motel, the skinning went  
fast & all birds were completed that night. Also  
the 3rd day of the Democratic National Convention  
was on the TV set & this added considerable interest to  
bird skinning. The convention was better than any  
shoot-em-up TV show.

Aug. 29 Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana - (Storm Lake & vicinity)

Clear beautiful day. I drove back up to Storm Lake  
in the morning (this time driving all the way to the  
lake) and hiked to Storm Lake Pass. En route this  
time I followed the lower edge of the large talus  
slope below Little Rainbow Mtn (cross country) until this  
route took me ~~past~~ back to the trail at the start of  
the first switchbacks. Plants along the lower talus-  
meadow border included: Elephant Heads, Bistort, Paint  
brush, Mertensia, Blue Gentian, Senecio, Daisy, Parnassia,  
& Speedwell. Animals included: Coy, Columbian Ground  
Squirrel, Admiral Butterflies (common), & a Hummingbird.  
Further up the trail in the larch stand Waterpiper, an



R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug. 29 Anaconda Pinhas Wilderness, Montana (Storm Lake & vicinity)Orange Crowned Warbler, several White-crowned Sparrows and a Rufus Hummingbird were seen.

~~On~~ The lower west slopes of Little Rainbow Mtn just east of the pass I saw two Water Pipits, groups of 3 & 10 Rosy Finches, one Audubon Warbler, three Oregon Junco, one Clarke Nutcracker and one White-crowned Sparrow. The Rosy Finches all flew west toward Mt. Tiny (9857 ft.) & disappeared.

I returned west to the pass & then followed the trail sw around the side of <sup>Mt.</sup> Tiny ~~to~~ to Goat Flat. I heard one Rosy Finch fly overhead (heading east?) but could not see him. Below the trail at the head of Seymour Creek I saw 7 back Mule Deer in a meadow below the talus slides. A Rock Wren was just below the trail on the warm rocky slope. Goat Flat is a large meadowy flat that extends from just south of the summit of Mt. Tiny ~~to~~ nearly to Kurt Pk. I turned and hiked north to the summit of Mt. Tiny & then down its east face to Storm Lake Pass but did not encounter any Rosy Finches. I hiked the trail again from the pass to the Flats & then headed south along the lip of the Flats above the cirque walls surrounding the multiple heads of Seymour Creek. On the Flats I saw Columbian Ground Squirrels, a Sparrow Hawk, & Water Pipits. Heather (Cassiope & Phyllodoce) were common, as was Dryas.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Aug. 29. Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, Montana - Storm Lake & vicinity

Toward dark I headed up Kurt Pk. The meadow (Goats Flat) extends up to a low summit north of the peak. Beyond this the route to the peak becomes more difficult as the ridge is ragged with numerous low cliffs. This ridge is all that remains separating a cirque above Upper Seymour Lake & ~~and~~ another on Page Creek. The cirque on Page Creek (west side of ridge) is steep talus overlying strata which dips at the same angle as the slope. This makes walking treacherous. A group of Rosy Finches were heard down this slope but could not be approached quietly enough to allow collecting because of the small avalanches that start with each footstep. These birds flew toward the top of the peak & I encountered them again there a little later but it was after sunset & again close approach was not possible. A spontaneous rock avalanche started on the slope near the top of the peak & continued for 10 minutes. This was the largest avalanche I'd ever witnessed & would have brought certain death & burial to anyone who was in its path. I returned crosscountry to Goat Flats, the trail, pass & Storm Lake all after dark. Camped at Storm Lake that night.

Added notes: saw a Prairie Falcon over Kurt Pk before dusk. Hoary Marmots were common along the ridge west of Mt. Tiny.





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Aug. 30 Storm Lake, Deer Lodge Co., to Missoula, Montana

Drove down from Storm Lake to US 10A & then west to Philipsburg & the US Forest Service office to obtain some maps & information about the Sapphire Mtns. They told me that a logging road now reaches very near the top of the 8995 ft. peak (highest pk in the range) in the Sapphires. This road approaches from the west side & I should see the rangers in the Bitterroot Valley area for details. This is a much faster approach than from Frogpond Basin. See Aug. 22 & 26 for details.

I continued to Missoula on US 10A & US 10 to get a final <sup>MS</sup> thesis ~~copy~~ copy & etc.

[Near Georgetown Lake I saw two Belted Kingfishers & in the lake near the campground <sup>between</sup> ~~along~~ the lake & the road I saw 12 Red-necked Grebes and 1 Pied-billed Grebe.

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Aug 31 - Sept. 18 - No Risy Finch Collecting

Time spent ① on MA Thesis red tape ② Glacier Park Trail Guide ③ Travel back to California including more car troubles.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
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Sept. 19-23 Sagehen Creek Field Station, Nevada Co., California

I stopped at Sagehen Creek on my return trip from Montana to collect Rosy Finches. The place was alive with visiting fireman like myself. Luis Baptista, a friend of Luis' named Arthur, Mary Caylen, & John Hopkirk were all visiting. Vernon Hawthorne & Family, Mike Fitzgerald, Al Cameron, & Jennifer ~~W~~ Meux were all present and doing research.

I spent most of my time helping Jenny with her work trapping Oregon Juncos for banding, etc. The following other species of birds were noted around the station area:

Orange-crowned Warbler

Mtn. Chickadee

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Red-tailed Hawk

Stellar Jay

White-crowned Sparrow

Golden-crowned Sparrow

} commonly entered the traps  
baited with commercial wild  
bird seed.

Brown Creeper

Red-shafted Flicker

Accipiter (either Cooper or Sharp-shinned Hawk) - <sup>top of</sup> on bird trap

Great Horned Owl

Belted Kingfisher

Western Robin

Mtn. Bluebird



Johnson, R.E

1968 - 1969

Catalogue

#488 - 700

Calif  
Nev  
colo  
Utah

Alaska



# Catalog

R.E. Johnson

## Bodie, Mono Co., California

Nor. 22, 1968

- 488	♂	Rosy Finch	testes 1mm	no buccal sacs	23.5
- 489	♂	" "	testes 1mm	no buccal sacs	24.0
- 490 <del>500</del>	?	" "			25.5
- 491	♀?	" "			24.5
- 492	♀?	" "			22.0
- 493	♀	" 11 - AT			24.0
- 494	?	" "			22.5
- 495	♀	" "	ovary 2x1mm		24.5
- 496	♀	" "	ovary 3x1mm		22.5
- 497	♂	" 11 - Lit.	testes 1mm	(littoralis)	27.0
- 498	♀	" "	ovary 1x1mm		23.5
- 499	♀?	" "			25.0
- 500	♂	" "	testes 1mm		21.0

(Bird <sup>#500</sup> was captured alive on Nor. 22 + died in Berkeley Nor. 26)  
(Gizzard Empty)

10 mi. e. & 10 mi. n. of Fernley, 4200 ft., Churchill Co., Nevada  
(15 mi. e. of Fernley on Interstate Hwy 80, Churchill Co., Nevada)

Jan. 25, 1969

(11 AM ±)

- 501	♀	Rosy Finch - Lit.	ovary 2x2mm	skull os.	25.0
- 502	♂	" " - Lit.	testes 1x1mm	skull os.	27.9
- 503	♀	" " T	ovary 4x2mm	skull os.	24.0
- 504	♂	" " T	testes 1x1mm	skull os.	—
- 505	♂	" " T	testes 1x1mm	skull os.	27.0
- 506	?	" " T		skull os.	23.5
- 507	♂	" " - Lit.	Testes 1x1mm	skull os.	24.0
- 508	♂	" " - Lit.	testes 1x1mm	skull os.	27.7





# Catalog

R.E. Johnson

10 mi. e. & 10 mi. n. of Fernley, 4200 ft., Churchill Co., Nevada

Jan. 25, 1969 (11 AM ±)

- 509	♂	Rosy Finch - Lit.	testes 1x1 mm	skull os.	24.9
- 510	♂	" " T	testes 1x1 mm	skull os.	26.9
- 511	♂	" " - Lit	testes 2x1 mm	skull os.	25.4
512	♂	Horned Lark	testes 2x1 mm		30.5
513	♀	" "	ovary 7x3 mm	s	24.3

1.2 mi. s. & 0.9 mi. w. of Elk Springs, 6000 ft., Moffat Co., Colorado

Jan. 26, 1969 (4:30 PM)

- 514	♀	Rosy Finch T	ovary 4x2 mm	mod. Fat	skull os.	28.6
- 515	♀	" " T	ovary 4x2 mm	low fat	skull os.	27.6
- 516	♂	" " T	testes 1x1 mm	low fat	skull os.	28.0
- 517	♂	" " T	testes 1x1 mm	low fat	skull os.	
- 518	♀	" " T	ovary 4x2 mm	mod. fat	skull os	29.5
- 519	♀	" " - L	ovary 4x2 mm	mod. fat.	skull os.	30.2
- 520	♂	" " T	testes 1x1 mm	mod. fat	skull os	29.7
- 521	♀	" " - L	ovary 3x2 mm	low fat	skull os.	27.4
- 522	♀	" " T	ovary 4x3 mm	low fat	skull os	28.7
- 523	♀	" " T	ovary 3x2 mm	mod. fat.	skull os.	28.8

1 mi. n. & 0.7 mi. e. of Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co., Colorado.

Jan. 30, 1969

- 524	♀	Rosy Finch - Au	ovary 2x1 mm	Fat low	skull os.	27.2
- 525	♀	" " T	3x1 mm ovary	high fat	skull os.	32.0
- 526	♂	" " T	testes 1.5x1 mm	heavy fat	skull os.	31.0
- 527	♀	" " T	ovary 3x2 mm	heavy fat	skull os	33.0
- 528	♀	" " - Lit	ovary 5x2 mm	heavy fat	skull os.	28.2



Catalog

R.E. Johnson

1 mi. n. & 0.7 mi. e. of Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co., Colorado

Jan. 30, 1969

-	529	♂	Rosy Finch	T	testes 1x1 mm	low fat	skull os.	29.0
-	530	♀	"	"	T ovary 3x2 mm	low fat	skull os.	23.3
-	531	♀	"	"	T ovary 6x3 mm	mod. fat.	skull os.	29.0
-	532	♀	"	"	T ovary 5x3 mm	heavy fat	skull os.	31.0
-	533	♀?	"	"	T —	heavy fat	skull os.	27.8
-	534	♂	"	"	C testes 1x1 mm	low fat	skull os.	28.7
-	535	♂	"	"	T testes 1x1 mm	mod. fat	skull os.	29.0
-	536	♀	"	"	T ovary 5x3 mm	heavy fat	skull os.	29.3
-	537	♂	"	"	T testes 1x1 mm	low fat	skull os.	27.0
-	538	♂	"	"	- Au testes 1x1 mm	low fat	skull os. a few breast feathers in molt!	26.0
-	539	♀	"	"	T ovary 5x4 mm	low fat	skull os.	27.8
-	540	♂	"	"	T testes 1x1 mm	mod. fat	skull os.	27.9
-	541	♀	"	"	- Lit ovary 3x1 mm	low fat	skull os.	28.9
-	542	♀	"	"	T ovary 3x1 mm	mod. fat.	skull os.	28.4
-	543	♀	"	"	T ovary 6x2 mm	low fat	skull os.	—
-	544	♂	"	"	- Lit. testes 1x1 mm	heavy fat	skull os.	32.5

<del>545</del>	<del>♂</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>testes 1x1 mm</del>	<del>mod. fat</del>	<del>skull os.</del>	<del>32.0</del>
<del>546</del>	<del>♀</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>ovary 4x2 mm</del>	<del>mod. fat.</del>	<del>skull os.</del>	<del>29.0</del>
<del>547</del>	<del>♂</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>testes 1x1 mm</del>	<del>mod. fat.</del>	<del>skull os.</del>	<del>31.5</del>
<del>548</del>	<del>♂</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>testes 1x1 mm</del>	<del>heavy fat</del>	<del>skull os.</del>	<del>33.5</del>

~~544~~ 1.3 mi. s. & 0.1 mi. w. of Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co., Colorado

Jan. 30, 1969

-	545	♂	Rosy Finch	- Au	testes 1x1 mm	mod. fat	skull os.	32.0
-	546	♀	"	"	T ovary 4x2 mm	mod. fat.	skull os.	29.0
-	547	♂	"	"	- C testes 1x1 mm	mod. fat	skull os.	31.5
-	548	♂	"	"	T. testes 1x1 mm	heavy fat	skull os.	33.5



## Catalog

R.E. Johnson

1.3 mi. s. + 0.1 mi. w. of Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co., Colorado

Jan. 30, 1969

-	549	♂	Rosy Finch - T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os.	—
-	550	♀	" " T	ovary 4x1mm	heavy fat	skull os.	27.2
-	551	♀	" " L	ovary 5x3mm	heavy fat	skull os.	28.4
-	552	♀	" " T	ovary 3x4mm	mod. fat.	skull os.	26.0
-	553	♀	" " L	ovary 3x2mm	mod. fat	skull os.	28.2
-	554	♂	" " L	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os	31.0
-	555	♂	" " C?	testes 1x1mm	—	skull os	29.3
-	556	♂	" " - L	testes 1x1mm	low fat	skull os	27.2
-	557	♂	" " Au	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os	28.8
-	558	♀	" " T	ovary 2x1mm	very heavy fat	skull os.	32.0
-	559	♀	" " - L	ovary 4x2mm	very heavy fat	skull os.	32.5
-	560	♂	" " Au	testes 1x1mm	mod? fat	skull os.	28.6
-	561	♀	" " - L	ovary 4x2mm	mod. fat	skull os	26.7
-	562	♀	" " T	ovary 2x3mm	T —	skull os	31.0
-	563	♂	" " C	testes 1x1mm	mod. fat.	skull os.	30.4
-	564	♀	" " - L	ovary 4x3mm	mod. fat	skull os.	30.1
-	565	♂	" " T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os	30.7
-	566	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os.	33.4
-	567	♀	" " - T	ovary 3x2mm	mod-heavy fat	skull os.	29.6
-	568	♀	" " - T	ovary 6x2mm	heavy fat	skull os.	30.8
-	569	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os.	29.6
-	570	♂	" " - At	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os.	31.5

0.4 mi. s. + 0.4 mi. w. of Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co., Colorado.

Jan. 30, 1969

-	571	♂	Rosy Finch L	testes 1x1mm	low fat	skull os.	30.3
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## Catalog

R.E. Johnson  
1969(wt. to nearest  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  gram)~~1.3 mi. s. & 0.8 mi. w. of~~~~Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co., Colorado~~

30 January 1969 (4:45 PM)

-	572	♂	Rosy Finch - Au	testes 1x1 mm		30.0
-	573	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1 mm		33.5
-	574	♀	" " - Au	ovary 4x2 mm		28.0
-	575	?(♂)	" " - Au			30.0
-	576	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1 mm	skull os.	30.0
-	577	♀	" " - Au	ovary 3x1 mm	skull os.	28.5
-	578	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1 mm	skull os.	31.0
-	579	♀	" " - Au	ovary 5x3 mm	skull os.	31.0
-	580	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1 mm	skull os.	30.0
-	581	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1 mm	skull os.	31.5
-	582	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1 mm	skull os.	33.5
-	583	♂	" " T	testes >1x>1 mm	skull os.	31.0
-	584	♀	" " T	ovary 3x3 mm	skull os.	Fat high 30.5
-	585	♀	" " - Lit.	ovary 4x3 mm	skull os.	Fat low 27.8
-	586	♂	" " T	testes 1x1 mm	skull os.	Fat mod. 32.5
-	587	♀	" " - L	ovary 4x3 mm	skull os.	Fat heavy 31.5

5.5 mi. s. & 1.3 mi. w. of Cowdrey, 8000 ft., Routt Co., Colorado

February 1, 1969 (dusk)

-	588	♂	Rosy Finch - Au	testes 1x1 mm		29.5
-	589	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1 mm		30.0

1.3 mi. n. & 2.6 mi. e. of Jefferson, 9600, Park Co., Colorado

February 2, 1969 (9:30 - 10:00 AM)

590	♀	Rosy Finch - T	ovary 5x2 mm	low fat	skull os.	26.7
591	♀	" " - T	ovary 4x2 mm	low fat	skull os.	25.9





Catalog

R.E. Johnson  
1969

1.3 mi. n. & 2.6 mi. e. of Jefferson, 9600 ft., Park Co., Colorado

February 2, 1969 (9:30-10:00 AM)

592	♀	Rosy Finch - T	4x2 mm ovary	low fat	skull os	27.3
593	♀	" " - T	3x1mm ovary	low fat	skull os	26.2
594	♂	" " - T	1x1mm testes	low-mod fat	skull os	29.0
595	♂	" " - Au	1.5x1mm testes	low fat	skull os.	27.8

3.3 mi. s. of Fairplay, 9700 ft., Park Co., Colorado

February 2, 1969

596	♀	Rosy Finch - T	ovary 4x2mm	low-mod. fat	skull os.	29.3
597	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1mm	badly shot up. low-mod fat?	skull os	26.0
598	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1mm	low-mod fat	skull os	25.8
599	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1mm	mod fat	skull os	26.2
600	♂	" " - Au	testes 1.5x1.5mm	low-mod fat	skull os.	25.7
601	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1mm	low-mod fat	skull os	27.6
602	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1mm	mod fat	skull os	26.9

1 mi. s. & 0.8 mi. w. of Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co., Colorado

February 7, 1969 (7:45-8:45 PM)

603	♀	Rosy Finch - T	ovary 5x3mm	heavy fat	crop wt. 0.4	skull os	29.8
604	♀	" " - L	ovary 5x2mm	heavy fat		skull os	27.3
- 605	♀	" " - L	ovary 4x3mm	heavy fat		skull os.	29.4
606	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	crop empty	skull os	30.4
607	♀	" " - T	ovary 4x3mm	heavy fat	crop empty	skull os	32.6
608	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	crop empty	skull os	30.1
609	♀	" " - T	ovary 4x1mm	heavy fat		skull os	30.9
- 610	♀	" " - L	ovary 5x3mm	heavy fat		skull os.	28.5
- 611	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat		skull os.	30.0



## Catalog

R.E. Johnson  
19691 mi. s. & 0.8 mi. w. of Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co., Colorado

February 7, 1969 (7:45 - 8:45 PM)

- 612	♀	Rosy Finch - T	ovary 4x3mm	mod fat	skull os	28.8
- 613	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os	31.7
- 614	♀	" " - T	ovary 5x3mm	mod-heavy fat	skull os.	30.7
- 615	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os.	30.7
- 616	♀	" " - T	ovary 4x2mm	heavy fat	skull os.	32.4
- 617	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	heavy fat	skull os	30.2
618	♀	" " - Au	ovary 5x2mm	heavy fat	skull os crop mod-heavy empty	30.4
619	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1mm	crop empty	fat skull mod-heavy os	26.4
620	♂	" " - Au	testes 1x1mm	crop empty	mod-heavy fat skull fat os	27.4
621	♀	" " - Au	ovary 4x2mm	crop wt 0.8	heavy fat skull fat os	29.7
622	♀	" " - L	ovary 2x1mm	crop empty	heavy fat skull fat os	30.2
623	♀	" " - T	ovary 6x3mm	crop wt. 0.2	heavy fat skull fat os	28.4
624	♀	" " - T	ovary 4x2mm	crop wt. 0.5	heavy fat skull fat os	29.5
625	♀	" " - T.	ovary 3x2mm	crop empty	mod-heavy fat skull fat os	26.3
626	♀	" " - T	ovary 3x2mm	crop empty	mod fat skull fat os	25.4
627	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	crop empty	heavy fat skull fat os	34.2
628	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	crop empty	heavy fat skull fat os	26.9
629	♀	" " - T	ovary 4x3mm	crop wt. 0.4	mod fat skull fat os	26.3
630	♂	" " - T	testes 1x1mm	crop empty	high fat skull fat os	30.6
631	♀	" " - T	ovary 4x2mm	crop empty	high fat skull fat os	31.8

0.5 mi. n. & 1.0 mi. w. of Fraser, Grand Co., Colorado, 8400 ft.

February 8, 1969

- 632	♂	Rosy Finch - Au	testes 1x1.5mm			30.5
<del>633</del>	<del>♀</del>	<del>" " - Au</del>	<del></del>	<del></del>	<del></del>	<del>31.4</del>



# Catalog

R.E. Johnson  
1969

0.5 mi. n. & 1.0 mi. w. of Fraser, Grand Co., Colorado, 8400 ft.

February 9, 1969 (10:30 AM)

- 633	♂	Rosy Finch - Au	Testes heavy 2x2 mm fat	skull os.	31.4
- 634	♂	" " - T	Testes heavy 1.5x1.5 mm fat	skull os.	30.9
635	♀	Mtn. Chickadee	ovary 4x1.5 mm		11.8

0.7 mi. n. & 1.3 mi. e. of Kremmling, 7600 ft., Grand Co., Colorado

February 9, 1969 (3:30 PM)

636	♂	Rosy Finch - T	testes crop wt. 1x1 mm 2.0	skull os.	30.9
637	♀	" " - T	ovary crop wt. 3x2 mm 2.0	skull os.	29.3
638	♀	" " - T	ovary crop wt. 5x2 mm 1.0	heavy fat skull os.	31.0
639	♀	" " - T	ovary crop wt. 6x2 mm 1.7	skull os.	29.8
640	♀	" " - T	ovary crop 2x1 mm empty	mod fat skull os.	25.0
641	♂	" " - T	testes crop wt. 1x1 mm 1.7	mod fat skull os.	29.1
642	♀	" " - T	ovary crop wt. 4x2 mm 2.1	mod fat skull os.	28.6
643	♂	" " - T	testes crop wt. 1x1 mm 0.9	high fat skull os.	31.8
644	♀	" " - T	ovary crop wt. 4x2 mm 0.6	high fat skull os.	30.7
645		" " - C	ovary crop 4x2 mm empty	high fat skull os.	28.0
646	♂	" " - L	1x1 mm testes crop wt. 1.4	mod-high fat skull os.	31.8
647	♀	" " - L	ovary crop wt. 3x2 mm 2.3	heavy fat skull os.	30.2
648	♂	" " - Au	testes crop wt. 1x1 mm 2.2	mod-heavy fat skull os.	29.5

2.4 mi. w. & 1.8 mi. n. of Granby, 8000 ft., Grand Co., Colorado

Feb. 9, 1969 (12:45 PM)

649	♀	Black-capped Chickadee	ovary 2x1 mm	skull os.	10.9
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# Catalog

RE-Johnson  
1969

2.8 mi. n. + 17 mi. w. of Duchesne, 6800 ft., Duchesne Co., Utah

Feb. 10, 1969

650 ♀ Piñon Jay ovary 7x5 mm 76.2

12 mi. w. and 3 mi. s. of Wells, 5400 ft., Elko Co., Nevada

Feb. 11, 1969 (10:30 AM)

- 651 ♀ Rosy Finch-T ovary 1.5x2 mm 25.5

s. slope of Peavine Mtn, 1.7 mi. n. + 4.0 mi. w. of Reno, 5600 ft.,

Washoe Co., Nevada

Feb. 11, 1969

- 652	♀	Rosy Finch -L	ovary 7x3 mm	low fat	skull oss.	26.2
- 653	♀	" " -L	ovary 4x3 mm	mod fat	skull oz.	27.4
- 654	♂	" " -L	testes 1x1 mm	mod fat	skull oz.	27.4
- 655	♀	" " -T	ovary 4x3 mm	low fat	skull oz.	27.7

~~and for total fat analysis~~

Feb. 16, 1969

656	♂	Rosy Finch -L	testes 1x1 mm	fat ?	crop wt. 0.4	skull oz.	27.8
- 657	♀	" " -L	ovary 4x2 mm	mod fat		skull oz.	27.9
658	♀	" " -L	ovary 4x2 mm	mod fat	crop empty	skull oz.	25.4
659	♂	" " -L	testes 1x1 mm	heavy fat	crop wt. 0.9	skull oz.	30.1
- 660	♂	" " -L	testes 1x1 mm	mod fat.		skull oz.	27.1
- 661	♀	" " -L	ovary 4x1 mm	low fat		skull oz.	26.7
- 662	♀	" " ? (no head)	ovary 5x2 mm	mod fat		skull oz.	27.0 +
663	♀	" " -T	ovary 2x3 mm	high fat	crop wt. 0.5	skull oz.	24.9
- 664	♂	" " -T	testes 1x1 mm	mod fat		skull oz.	26.3
665	♂	" " -T	testes 1x1 mm	low fat	crop wt. 0.5	skull oz.	26.7
- 666	♀	" " -T	ovary 7x2 mm	low fat		skull oz.	27.1





# Catalog

R.E. Johnson  
1969

S. slope of Peavine Mtn, 1.7 mi. n. & 4.0 mi. w. of Reno, 5600 ft, Washoe Co.,

weights at  
death  
↓

## Nevada

caught alive Feb. 16, 1969; died in Berkeley Feb. 17, 1969

-	667	♂	Rosy Finch - L	testes 1x1mm	low fat	skull os. (moll along back)	22.3
-	668	?	" " - L		low fat	skull os	18.5
-	669	♀	" " - T	ovary 3x2mm	low fat	skull os.	22.6
-	670	♀	" " - T	ovary 4x3mm	low fat	skull os	24.5

caught alive Feb. 16, 1969; died in Berkeley Feb. 19, 1969

-	671	♀	Rosy Finch - L	ovary 5x2mm	low fat	skull os	19.2
-	672	♂	" " - L	testes 1x1mm	low fat	skull os.	18.8
-	673	♀	" " - L	ovary 5x1mm	low fat	skull os	19.9

caught alive Feb. 16; died in Berkeley Feb. 24, 1969

-	674	♂	Rosy Finch - T	testes 1x1mm	low fat	skull os.	17.6
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caught alive Feb. 16, 1969; died in Berkeley Feb. 26, 1969

-	675	♂	Rosy Finch - T	testes 1x1mm	low fat	skull os	16.5
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## Bodie, Mono Co., California

captured Nov. 22, 1968; died in Berkeley Feb. 23, 1969  
accidental death, not starvation

-	676	♀	Rosy Finch - T	ovary 4x2mm	heavy fat	skull os	24.9
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## Cold Bay, Alaska

captured Feb. 7, 1969; died Feb. 10, 1969 ~~in Alaska~~ dead on arrival at SF.

-	677	♂	Rosy Finch - g.	testes 6.5x1mm	low (very) fat (thin, i.e. starved)	skull os.	28.9
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captured Feb. 7, 1969; died Feb. 11, 1969 in Berkeley

-	678	♀	Rosy Finch - g.	ovary 7x3mm	low fat	skull os.	34.3
-	679	♂	" " - g	testes 2x1.5mm	low fat	skull os.	39.0



## Catalog

R. E. Johnson  
1969Nederland, Boulder Co., Colorado 8200 ft.

captured March 24, 1969; Died in Berkeley May 9, 1969

- 680 ♂ Rosy Finch - L  
(banded BRT, YR Lt.) (used for karyotyping - slides L5)  
testes 4x3mm high fat skull os. 33.9
- 681 ♂ Rosy Finch - L  
(not banded) (used for karyotyping - slides L4)  
testes 6x4mm high fat skull os. 38.3
- 682 ♀ Rosy Finch - T  
(banded YRT, RLt) (used in karyotyping - slides T4)  
ovary 5x3mm high fat skull os. 34.9
- 683 ♀ Rosy Finch - T  
(banded YRT, WLt) (used in karyotyping - slides T5) 34.4  
ovary 3x3mm largest ovum 1mm high fat skull os.

Nederland, Boulder Co., Colorado 8200 ft.

captured March 24, 1969; Died in Berkeley May 7, 1969

- 684 ♂ Rosy Finch - T  
(banded GR, YRLt) (used in karyotyping - slides T-2)  
testes 6x3mm high fat skull os. 33.5
- 685 ♀ Rosy Finch - L  
(not banded) (used in karyotyping - slides L-2)  
ovary 3x5mm largest ovum 1mm high fat skull os. 35.7
- 686 ♂ Rosy Finch - L  
(WRT) (used in karyotyping - slides L-3) 40.6  
testes 6x4mm high fat skull os.
- 687 ♂ Rosy Finch - T  
(not banded) (used in karyotyping - slides T-3) 33.5 grams  
testes 4x3mm high fat skull os.

Nederland, Boulder Co., Colorado 8200 ft.

captured March 24, 1969; Died in Berkeley April 30, 1969

- 688 ♂ Rosy Finch - T  
(not banded) (used in karyotyping - slides T1) no wt.  
testes 2x5x2mm high fat skull os.
- 689 ♂ Rosy Finch - L  
(not banded) (used in karyotyping - slides L1) no wt.  
testes 2x2mm



Catalog

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Nederland, 8200 ft., Boulder Co., Colorado

captured March 24, 1969; Died in Berkeley May 9, 1969

- 690 ♀ Rosy Finch - Au      ovary 7x4mm      no follicles      skull os.      26.5  
(banded GG RT, YLT) (died of unknown causes. Was in Rm. T5)

~~Rosy Finch~~

Bodie, Mono Co., Calif.

Captured Nov. 22, 1968; Died in Berkeley May 9, 1969

- 691 ♂ Rosy Finch - D      testes 1.5x1mm      skull os.      24.5  
(banded G LT) (died of unknown causes about May 9, in Rm B3)

Emigrant Peak, 2 mi. w. of Squaw Valley, 8600 ft., Placer Co., California

April 12, 1969

- 692 ♂ Rosy Finch - D      testes 2x2mm      low fat      skull os.      24.5  
693 ♀ " " - D      ovary 6x3mm      no follicles      low fat      skull os.      no wt.

Nederland, 8200 ft., Boulder Co., Colorado

Caught March 24, 1969; Died in Berkeley May 16, 1969

- 694 ♀ Rosy Finch - T      ovary 9x6mm      largest ovum 1.5mm      high fat      skull os.      31.2  
(banded R RT, WW LT) (used for karyotypes - T-6)  
- 695 ♂ Rosy Finch - L      testes 6x4.5mm      high fat      skull os.      36.7  
(banded Y LT) (used for karyotypes L-6)

Cold Bay, Alaskan Peninsula, Alaska

captured Feb. 7, 1969; died April 28, 1969 in Berkeley

- 696 ♂ Rosy Finch - G      testes 9x7mm      low fat      skull os      39.5  
(banded R RT)



## Catalogue

R.E. Johnson  
1969Cold Bay, Alaska

- ~~697~~ captured Feb. 7, 1969; died April 27, 1969 in Berkeley.
- |       |   |                |                  |            |          |      |
|-------|---|----------------|------------------|------------|----------|------|
| - 697 | ♂ | Rosy Finch - G | testes<br>7x6 mm | fat<br>low | skull os | 39.0 |
|       |   | (RW Rt)        |                  |            |          |      |

South Park, Colorado (1 mi. no. & 0.7 mi. e. of Jefferson, 9500 ft., Park Co.)

- Captured March 21, 1969; Died in Berkeley April 27, 1969
- |       |   |                    |                 |                            |                      |      |
|-------|---|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------|
| - 698 | ♀ | Rosy Finch - T     | ovary<br>6x4 mm | largest follicle<br>0.2 mm | high fat<br>skull os | 28.0 |
|       |   | (banded YRt, RRLt) |                 |                            |                      |      |

Cold Bay, Alaska

- Captured Feb. 7, 1969; Died March 14, 1969 in Berkeley
- |       |   |                               |                 |                 |            |          |      |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|----------|------|
| - 699 | ♀ | Rosy Finch - G                | ovary<br>4x2 mm | no<br>follicles | low<br>fat | skull os | 44.0 |
|       |   | <del>(banded)</del> YRt, YLt. |                 |                 |            |          |      |

So. slope of Peavine Mtn, 1.7 mi. n. & 4.0 mi. w. of Reno, 5600 ft.,Washoe Co., Nevada.

- Captured Feb. 16, 1969; Died in Berkeley March 14, 1969
- |       |   |                 |                 |                 |                |             |      |
|-------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|------|
| - 700 | ♀ | Rosy Finch - L  | ovary<br>4x2 mm | no<br>follicles | low-med<br>fat | os<br>skull | 27.1 |
|       |   | (banded WY Lt.) |                 |                 |                |             |      |





# Crop Wt. Data

	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Body</u>	<u>Fat</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>race</u>	
634	01.6	30.9	heavy	10:30AM	T	
633	00.9	31.4	heavy	10:30AM	Au	
611	empty 00.1	30.0	heavy	8 PM ±	T	
617	00.1	30.2	heavy	"	T	
613	00.1	31.7	heavy	"	T	
614	00.1	30.7	heavy	"	T	
612	00.1	28.8	mod	"	T	
610	00.1	28.5	heavy	"	L	
615	00.1	30.7	heavy	"	T	
616	00.1	32.4	heavy	"	T	
652	00.1	26.2	low		L	Peavine Feb. 11
653	00.1	27.4	mod		L	
654	00.2	27.4	mod		L	
655	00.4	27.7	low		T	
605	00.1	29.4	heavy	8PM	L	
660	00.7	27.1	mod		L	Peavine Feb. 16
664	00.4	26.3	mod.		T	
657	00.1	27.9	mod		L	
661	00.7	26.7	low		L	South Park Feb. 2, 69
590	00.7	26.7	low	9:30-10AM	T	
591	00.3	25.9	low	"	T	
592	00.5	27.3	low	"	T	
593	00.5	26.2	low-mod	"	T	
594	00.4	29.0	low-mod	"	T	
595	00.4	27.8	low	"	Au	
596	00.8	29.3	low-mod.		T	
597	00.8	26.0	low-mod?		Au	South Park Feb. 2, 69
598	00.7	25.8	low-mod		Au	



Crop WT Data

	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Body</u>	<u>Fat</u>	<u>Time Collected</u>	<u>race</u>	<u>Date &amp; Location</u>
599	00.8	26.2	mod		Au	} South park Feb. 2, 69
600	00.4	25.7	low-mod		Au	
601	01.1	27.6	low-med		Au	
602	00.3	26.9	mod		Au	



Johnson, R. E

1968 - 1969

Journal

calif

Nev

Utah

Colo.



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Oct. 31 Berkeley, Calif. to Sagehen Creek Field Station, Calif.

Jenny Meux and I drove her new VW square-back Sagehen Creek via Donner Pass. Left Berkeley after 7 PM. Visited <sup>with</sup> Mike Fitzgerald & then to bed.

Nov. 1 Sagehen Creek to Peavine Mtn, Nevada & Return

A lazy morning. Jenny will work on Oregon Junco while I take her car and explore mine shafts & mountain tops for Rosy Finches.

I arrived at the "big shaft" of Dr. N.K. Johnson (see notes of March 10, 1968) on the south side of Peavine Mtn at 2:50 PM (Pacific Standard Time). The roads were dry and I had no trouble driving all the way to the shaft. I parked about 50 ft beyond the shaft and then explored the immediate area. Everything appears as it did in March except that the ground is now dry. I could not see any birds in the shaft & rocks thrown into it did not arouse any. Two motorcyclists road up the ridge (with barbwire fence) to the east but otherwise everything was quiet in the area. No birds of any species were seen. There is no snow in sight except a trace of fresh snow near the <sup>(north side)</sup> tops of the mtns south of Peavine (so. of Interstate 80). By 4 PM no Rosy Finches had been seen, so I explored nearby mine shafts & dumps. By 4:30 PM there were still no Rosy Finches in the shaft. The sun was very low & had set behind dense clouds low on the western horizon.





# Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 1 Sagehen Cr., Calif. to Peavine Mtn, Nevada & Return (cont.)

It is perhaps too early to expect R. s. Finches to be roosting in mines. There is little snow yet, though the temperatures are already quite low. There was a light mantle of fresh snow (one or two inches) near Boreal Ridge along the highway. Temperatures at Sagehen are listed below:

	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Rain</u>
Oct. 16	53	22	
17	67	23	
18	59	14	
19	65	19	
20	58	34	
21	65	20	
22	67	23	
23	65	24	
24	73	24	
25	72	24	
26	67	25	
27	74	23	
28	70	25	
29	57	40	0.01
30	44	22	
31	47	17	
Nov. 1	49	18	
2	44	43	0.46

Near dusk I explored a ~~new~~ road I had not driven on in the past. It turns off the dirt



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 1

Sagehen Cr. to Peavine Mtn, Nevada + Return (cont.)  
 road that I had followed past the donut shaped reservoir to the "big shaft". The turn off is to the north down through the basin immediately behind an earth fill dam on Peavine creek. The road climbs up the other side of the basin & climbs the mtn via switchbacks to a point where ~~the~~ I could see the several vertical shafts that John Spencer & I had hiked to on March 10, 1968 (see notes). This is probably an easier route to these shafts than we had followed. Several other mining dumps & etc could be seen down canyons from these shafts.

Mileages From Truckee to:

Sagehen Creek Field Station	12
Reno	35
Squaw Valley	
Tahoe City	14
Sonora Pass Rd. Jct.	131
Bridgeport	148
Bodie	
Leevining	173
Big Pine	254

Nov. 2.

Sagehen Cr., Calif. To Peavine Mtn + Return

A steady rain fell all morning & the ground turned somewhat mushy around Sagehen Cr.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Nov. 2 Sagehen Cr., Calif. to Peavine Mtn., Nevada & Return (cont.)

Field Station. Clouds were low on the mtns making a hike up into the high country (Mt. Rose or Squaw Pk) unreasonable.

Drove <sup>with Jenny</sup> to Reno on Interstate 80, then north on <sup>US</sup> 395 to the ~~the~~ road to the top of Peavine Mtn. Arrived at the top at 2:30 PM. Sat in the car 40 ft from the large vertical mine shaft that I had seen Rosy Finches at on March 11, 1968. The rain continued & the sky was often very dark. Wind from the west. No snow on the ground. While we were waiting we listened to the Stanford-Oregon State Football game (ended 29 to 7 in favor of underdog Oregon State). Meanwhile two other unexpected scores were developing: Cal 7 to Wash. 7 & USC 21 to Oregon 14. The latter was 14-14 until the final minute. Cal nearly pulled its game out but fumbled with seconds left & on the goal line. Both Cal & USC were favored. The broadcast ended & still no birds at 4:30 PM. Surely the birds would be in by this time. Dr. Johnson had reported that birds return at 3:30 PM approx. I had seen them at 2:30 PM last year. We were about to drive off before darkness set in when I saw a bird flit by in the rear view mirror. Shortly two birds <sup>Rosy Finches</sup> appeared near the shaft. That had approached from behind the car (west or perhaps NW, or SW). It were now examining things as if uneasy.



## Journal

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1968

Nov. 2 Sagehen Cr., Calif. to Peavine Mtn, Nevada & Return (cont.)  
because of our presence. The approach was timed with a noticeable darkening of the sky due to very dense black clouds plus the low sun. Finally the birds entered the shaft at 4:35 PM. No additional birds arrived. At 4:45 or 4:50 PM we approached the shaft with Flashlights. Both birds flew out almost immediately after we turned our lights down the shaft. I cannot be sure that they weren't aroused by our approach rather than by the Flashlights but it appeared as though they took flight after we reached the shaft & that they were only perched 30 Ft or so <sup>down</sup>. One flew out fairly rapidly & easily, the other fluttered upward in a more labored manner & took much longer. It lit near the opening & I'm 90% certain it was ~~the~~ a bird of the Cascade Race (L.T. littoralis). Gray appeared to cover the whole side of the head or perhaps only a fraction short of this. We walked back to the car & shortly the birds reentered the shaft.

At 5:05 PM it was nearly too dark to see so we started the car to leave. Again the birds flew from the shaft, but shortly reentered.

While we had been parked near the shaft jeeps & pickups with hunters passed us at least a dozen times & one stopped to talk. There was





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nor. 2 Sagehen Cr., Calif. to Peavine Mtn., Nevada & Return (cont.)  
a sign & gate on the road leading to Peavine Mtn which said the gate was only open for the hunting season as a courtesy of Landa Bros. The sign was placed by the Nevada Fish & Game Commission. The gate is located about      miles from the shaft.

[P.S. Saw a White-headed Woodpecker at noon at Sagehen].

Nor. 3 Sagehen Cr., Calif. to Peavine Mtn., Nevada & Return ~~from~~

Woke up to see a half inch layer of fresh snow on the ground. Shortly the rain began to fall & by noon all signs of the snow were gone. Last night Jenny sewed 2 of my mist nets together so that I could cover the shaft on Peavine Mtn. this afternoon. The plan is to capture, identify, & band the birds & then release them. On subsequent occasions I can see if the same individuals return to this shaft. As the season progresses it will be interesting to see if more birds show up & how this correlates with weather, particularly snow conditions & low temps.

At 11:30 AM I walked out in the rain under the pine trees east of Sagehen Cr. Field Station & gave an immolation of a Pygmy Owl. Shortly I was surrounded by Mtn. Chickadees & Red-breasted Nuthatches. The only other birds seen this morning were one Hairy Woodpecker and a Flock of 30 Oregon Junco.



R. E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 3 Sagehen Cr., Calif. To Peavine Mtn, Nevada & Return (cont.)

Jenny & I left sagehen just after 1 PM & drove through Reno to the top of Peavine Mtn, arriving at 2:30 PM. It took about one hour to place the double mist net over the vertical shaft, attach 2 guy lines & then lower it about 10 feet into the shaft. Lowering the net got it out of the wind, put it more in the shadows & thus less conspicuous, and made the net fit the entrance more closely since the shaft narrowed rapidly. The ground had 4-6 inches of snow, the sky was threatening, and a strong cold wind was blowing from the west. This made our efforts more difficult and slowed the operation. <sup>Just</sup> Before we finished, <sup>3:40 PM</sup> 12 to 16 rosy finches flew toward the shaft from the NW. They were flying close to the ground and not high above the ground as others have reported. We had hoped to be gone from the immediate vicinity of the shaft before the birds arrived ~~but never~~ <sup>and</sup> our presence probably lessened our chances of catching the birds. They flew from place to place around the hole as we departed. Subsequently the majority of them dropped down out of our sight within the hole & remained, only to emerge again and later repeat the same sequences. At one point when most of the birds were known to be in the ~~whole~~ & had remained for some time, we approached to see if any birds had



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Nov. 3

Sagehen Cr., Calif. to Peavine Mtn., Nevada, + Return (cont.)  
been caught in the net as yet. As soon as we reached the edge of the hole all the birds flew out. They were all perched on the sides of the shaft above the net. None were caught & none flew up from below the net. The birds returned to the hole after we again left but they did not go below the net. We saw the Flock flying 100 yds west of the hole several times as it flew from place to place around the shaft, landing here & there to feed & then returning near the shaft. Finally at perhaps 5 PM we saw the Flock leave the area flying west. It was not seen again. At 5:45 PM (now dark) we removed the net & drove away.

all the birds seen closely were of the tephrocotis head pattern (not littoralis) & none were dark like L.t. atrata. These birds could have been L.t. dawsoni, wallowa, or tephrocotis.

We explored a mine dump downhill to the NW & found that the shaft there ~~had~~ was caved in & completely closed to entry. No birds could roost there.

Nov. 4.

Sagehen Cr. to Berkeley, Calif. — Reno

We drove to Reno to get the VW lubed, etc for its 600 mile check & then we returned to Berkeley. While waiting for the car in Reno we walked



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Nov. 4

Sagehen Cr. to Berkeley, Calif. (cont) — Reno  
To Virginia Lake Park where we saw large  
numbers of ducks & geese. Most common  
species were Canada Geese, Mallard Ducks, &  
Coots (100, 100, & 50 respectively). There were also  
several White-fronted Geese, about 15 Ruddy Ducks,  
and one Pied-billed Grebe. There were also several  
hybrid duck & goose forms. Other species  
included: Ring-billed Gull  
English Sparrow  
Red-breasted Sapsucker  
Audubon Warbler  
Brewer's Blackbird

1



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Nov. 20 Berkeley, California to Murphy Spring, Mono Co., Calif.

Martin Vickers drove up from Palo Alto this morning. We loaded his Jaguar with equipment & left Berkeley at 9:50AM via Interstate 80 over Donner Pass to Reno & then US 395 through Bridgeport to the Bodie Turnoff. Murphy Spring is about 3 miles short of Bodie along this road. There was very little snow (trace) near Donner Pass. We stopped at the Nevada Historical Society in Carson City to see if they knew where "Washoe Spur" was located. This was a term used by Ridgway in 1875 to describe the location ~~of~~ where a rosy finch was taken by a Mr. Gruber. They hadn't heard the term Washoe spur before, but they did locate an old map with the Washoe Mts on it. This was a southern extension of the Carson Range. We were introduced to Fred Funk, the Biological Preparator of the Nevada State Museum (Carson City, Nevada 89701) and he showed us the museum's study collection. They have two specimens of *Littorallia*:

① NSM 351 March 3, 1964 no sex

Eagle Valley, Ormsby Co., Nevada

coll. by P.J. Herlan

prep. by F. H. Holley

② NSM 647 Dec. 4, 1964 ♂?

about 4 mi. w. of Wellington in Douglas Co., Nevada on Nev. Hwy. 3. Birds feeding alongside road in flock of 75-100.

Cold & stormy weather in Sierra Nevada - Canyon area,

sage brush.

coll. B.O. Smith



# Journal

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Nov. 20 Berkeley, Calif. to Murphy Spring, Mono Co., Calif. (cont.)

It was getting toward dusk as we drove on south toward Bridgeport where we later picked up supplies at about 6 PM. After supper we drove on south to the Bodie Turnoff & then up the road toward Bodie. We stopped first at "Mormon Ranch" which consists of one old abandoned bldg. We went inside & found a Red-shafted Flicker ~~on~~ roosting on a rafter next to one wall. It awoke & flew out the door over our heads. At our camp at Murphy Spring the temperature was 24°F at 9 PM. The sky was clear. No wind.

Nov. 21 Bodie, Mono Co., California

Up at 7 AM, temp. 21°F & frost on everything. Sky still clear. Drove to Bodie and met the new man in charge of the state park, Steve Penner. <sup>(He said temp. at Bodie reached 110°F.)</sup> He said I would need a permit to collect rosy finches whether via mist net or gun. He was quite friendly & helpful. He gave the following address to write for a permit:

Dept. of Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 2390

Sacramento, California

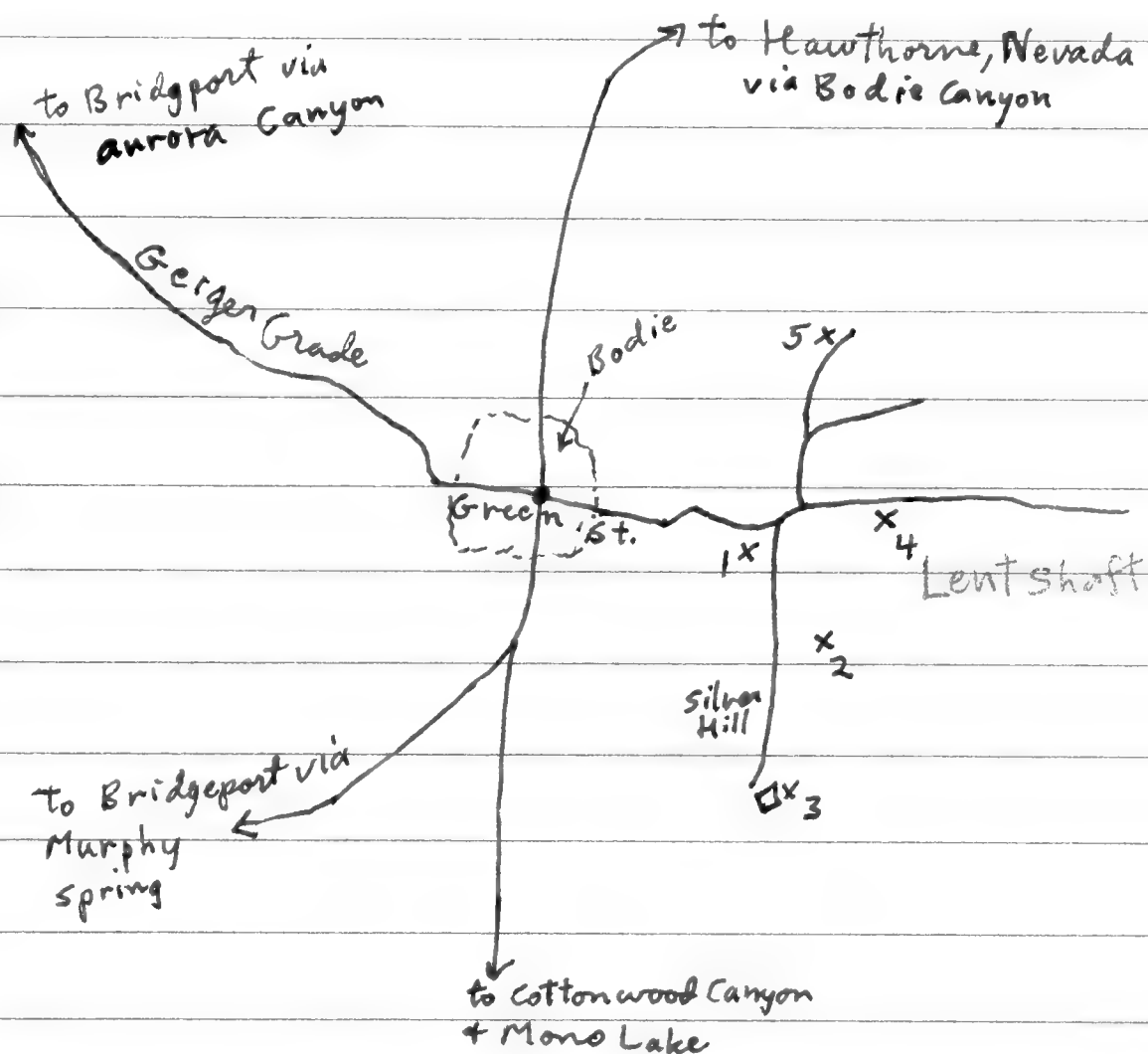
Marr. & I, <sup>walked</sup> east up Green Street to the top of a ridge where the road divides several times near 2 small lakes. We first hiked ~~on~~ south over Silver Hill examining mine dumps for associated vertical shafts which might be use by roosting rosy finches. Three possible ~~shaft~~ <sup>shaft</sup> sights were located (see sketch map). The 1st 2, <sup>(#s 1 & 2)</sup> were encircled by wire fences. The last (#3) (southernmost) is surrounded by a large building & the



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Nov. 21 Bodie, Mono Co., Calif (cont.)

building itself could furnish many roost sights.



Near this mine (#3) I got a fleeting look at a Raven (or crow?). We returned north to the road jet & then walked east on another road to a large vertical shaft surrounded by large concrete foundations, etc. The shaft is partially blocked by one enormous rock & concrete structure which ~~and~~ fell into the hole. This is the Lent shaft that I visited in March 21 with Bill Stelzreide. He had seen birds in the shaft. None were present now. We returned west & then north to the other shaft that I had visited on March 21 & was known to contain Ross Finches.

We returned to the car and drove up Geiger Grade to the road summit & beyond until we could look down to the west or nw & see the edge of Bridgeport Reservoir.



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968Nov. 21 Bodie, Mono Co., Calif. (cont.)

In route we saw a small Flock of sparrow sized birds flying low over the sagebrush, one Rough-legged Hawk & one Black-billed Magpie. Earlier we had seen another Buteo (not Rough-leg) that resembled a Swainson Hawk. We returned to Bodie at 1:30 PM & ate lunch. A Horned Lark flew over (ne). After lunch we hiked back up Green St. (east) to the vertical mine shaft to see when & if rosy finches would return to them. I went to shaft 5 & Marr. to shaft 4, both arriving by 2 PM. Rosy Finches appeared at both shafts at 2:30 PM arriving from the south or southwest (not from the west over Bodie). At shaft 5 about 40 birds arrived at 2:30 PM & circled over my head (I was located 40 yds to the ne). Some flew up & out of sight to the north. Others land 20 yds west of me on a shaded 30 ft. east facing cliff. Others landed within 10-15 yds of the shaft. Birds circled & landed often but I saw none enter the shaft. After 10 minutes all the activity ceased & about 10 birds were perched on the nearby cliff face. No other birds were in sight. None of these birds were the Cascade race (L. t. littoralis) or L. atrata. I could not distinguish them further, i.e. they could be dawsoni or tephrocotis. At 3:00 PM one bird flew from the shaft & another hopped along its lip. I hadn't seen any birds enter or approach the shaft but ~~there~~ there were lapses in my observation of the mine entrance. The birds on the cliff remained there preening, feeding & hopping about or just huddling in a niche. There were several brief





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Nov. 21 Bodie, Mono Co., Calif. (cont.)

aggressive interactions. ~~By~~ 3:50 PM they had worked there way down the cliff almost out of my vision. Four flew to the shaft & entered quietly. I could not locate the others, perhaps they had entered just previously. At 3:55 PM a Horned Lark flew se overhead. No additional rosy finches were seen at the shaft by 4:10 PM. The only group to arrive had been the 2:30 group so far ~~at~~ I could tell. Their arrival ~~had~~ been announced by considerable chirping. There were occasional bursts of chirping thereafter but it was mostly quiet. A Chipmunk & 2 Pikas were seen in the rockslides and a Sparrow Hawk had sat near the finches for 5 minutes shortly after the finches arrived.

at shaft 4 Marr recorded the following notes:

2:30 PM - 3 birds disappear over tailings hill directly back of me [north]. Light, high chirp, scalloped flight.

2:35 PM - about 70 to 80 birds, half went into hole, rest disappeared over tailing. In 3 minutes flock came out. Most went over tailings but 10 or so stayed in and around hole. More arrive, 5 to 8 more at 2:37 PM, go in hole. Very nervous. They pop in and out frequently.

2:40 PM About dived rapidly into hole from about 10 ft. off ground - not cautious. Look like a new group, as old group of 20 or so had just left.

another flock arrives from in front (toward Sierras) [sw], flits on down valley and appears to stop.



R.E. Johnson  
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## Journal

Nov. 21

Bodie, Mono Co., California (cont.)

Flock appears behind me, circling over tailings.

Each flock [i.e. the last two] 20-25 birds.

Occasional single birds appear and go into hole.

Flock activity apparently stopped by 2:45 PM.

2:50 PM - 3 birds go in hole, first land on edge, then go down shaft. These came from down the valley [east or ese] rather than from toward the Sierra.

3:00 PM - 3 birds fly overhead, over tailings, without stopping at shaft.

3:05 PM - 2 birds leave hole, fly over tailings

Once our observations at shafts 4 & 5 were over at about 4:05 PM, we explored to the north for additional vertical shafts. Marr found a large one a short ways above the road, i.e. no. of #4. <sup>may have entered this one.</sup> From hole #4 it appeared some birds I located one with a vertical entrance & a second vertical hole that turned to meet the 1st in 10 ft. Rocks thrown down this shaft brought numerous birds up the shaft. It is clear that there are at least 30 birds in it. All that I could see clearly had the gray cap limited to the top of the head & were chestnut, not black (i.e. they were tephrocotis or dawsoni). This shaft is just to ~~the~~ the east of a prominent hill top. Marr went over the hill & located one large & 2 small shafts on the NW side & part way down which contained Rosy Finches (determined by throwing rocks in the



R.E. Johnson  
1968

## Journal

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Nov. 21 Bodie, Mono Co., Calif. (cont.)

shafts. I explored a bldg containing large wooden Tanks which stands just so. of the hill top. One or two birds were roosting inside but I couldn't be sure they were rosy finches (now dusk outside & black inside).

We returned to the car & drove to Bodie Campground, north of Bodie where there are piped water, pit toilets, & tables.

Temp at 7:45 PM = 27°F. Sky clear, but hints of clouds to northwest. At 8:15 PM or so the sky was totally overcast. Through the night thin clouds passed over off & on, alternating with star filled sky.

Nov. 22. Bodie, Mono Co., Calif.

5:15 AM Alarm goes off, Temp. 22°F, We stay in sack, Owl flies over.

5:30 AM Finally we brave the cold. Dark out, but hint of light in east.

6:05 AM Hiked up Green St. & heard Rosy Finch flock near top of hill. It appeared to be moving south. Several other small groups heard.

6:20 AM I reached hole #5. No birds heard. At 6:30 I threw rocks in hole, no response. At 6:35 I rushed up hill to the other hole, arriving at 6:40 AM. At 6:45 AM the sun came up over the horizon. It wouldn't be up yet at #4 where Marr is located.

7:00 AM One Rosy Finch heard deep within shaft.

Chirping was heard for 30 seconds before the bird !



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 22

Boodie, Mono Co., Calif.

appeared 10 ft. below the lip of the shaft. It then flew out in one flight & off to the se, chirping all the while. These chirps (all birds this morning & the majority yesterday) are high pitched & not at all hoarse like the more familiar chirps so often heard in the summer.

at shaft #4 Marr saw a flock of  $25 \pm$  birds around the edge of the hole as he arrived at 6:15 AM. He approached to within 100 ft & sat down.

6:20 - another flock of 20 flew out of hole & left. Birds left immediately & left down canyon (se).

6:20 - 6:30 about 4 bunches of 6-10 birds each which also left immediately & most went down canyon (rather than south toward Cottonwood Canyon).

6:30 - 6:40 AM another dozen or so birds leave, one at a time.

6:45 - Threw rocks down hole, no response.

Left hole.

a few birds had flown over hole (high) from north but no large flocks.

In conclusion, we didn't reach the shafts in time to catch the complete exodus of Rosy Finches. The birds probably left shafts 4 & 5 around 6 AM <sup>to 6:10 AM.</sup> which is 45 min to 1 hour before sunrise for these shafts, yet it is also light enough to navigate walking the hills. The last half hour before sunrise was very bright out (like nearly full daylight).





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Nov. 22 Bodie, Mono Co., Calif.

Following this early morning activity Marr showed me the location of the 3 mine shafts <sup>which</sup> contained birds when he saw at dusk yesterday (over hill & north of #5).

Back at Bodie we talked to Bill Stelzreide (Ranger) & he told us the State Park authority ends half way up Green Street toward the hill top meaning that the mines we've been examining are not in the park and we cannot be stopped from collecting there. The land is privately owned & he gave us the name ~~of the owner~~ to contact for permission to use the area for collecting:

George J. Stathis, Geologist

American Smelting &amp; Refining Co.

320 Broadway Blvd

Suite 4

Reno, Nevada

OR

PO Box 7637

Reno, Nevada 89502

phone 702-786-1919

Based upon this information we decided to try to capture birds at the shafts which we had been watching since they all were east of the park. This time we drove north, then east down Bodie Canyon & parked near Gray Mill and then hiked west up a dirt road for a little over a mile to shaft #4. This route had the advantage of not passing through state park property



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Nov. 22.

Bodie, Mono Co., Calif.

and therefore not encouraging other visitors to the park to trespass. We set up<sup>a</sup> mist net~~s~~ over shaft #5 and the double width net over the larger shaft uphill from 5. While setting up the latter, 2 rosy finches arrived (1:30 PM) & one of these dove into the shaft even though Maw & I stood at the edge of the hole (one on either side) holding the net. The bird was immediately caught in the net. We finished setting up the net & left<sup>near 2:30 PM</sup> prior to the return of any additional birds. Mist nets over both holes had been lowered so that they were out of sight in the shadows of the shafts.

While rosy finches were returning to the above holes, we collected birds at 2 other shafts (#4 & the hole to the north) using shotguns. We each collected 6 birds, including one littoralis & one atrata. Many other birds appeared at the shafts but they would rarely land where they could be retrieved after shooting. The birds usually dove into the shafts without hesitation or caution. They did this even when I stood at the edge of the hole. Rocks thrown into the hole would usually cause a few birds to fly out, often landing on the wall of the shaft just below the top. In such a location they could investigate the disturbance & ~~also~~ also remain out of the wind. We continued to note the high musical notes made by the rosy finch which contrast with the harsher chirps so frequent in summer.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Nov. 22 Bodie, Mono Co., California

at dusk we returned to our mist nets. The smaller hole (#5) contained 7 or 8 birds. Several escaped as we brought in the net but we still had 5 birds. At the upper hole the net contained even more birds, 1 or 2 escaped leaving ~~7~~ 7 birds. So our netting brought in 12 birds total. We carried the birds (still in the nets) to the car & extracted them from the nets by flashlight while in the car.

Camped at Murphy Spring.

During the day we had seen a Rock Wren + two Mtn. Bluebirds and Marr had seen several Sage Grouse.

Nov. 23. Murphy Spring, Leavitt<sup>Calif.</sup> & Bodie, Mono Co.; Aurora, Mineral Co., Nevada to Sagehen Creek Field Stations, California

Murphy Spring: 4:30 to 5:00 AM 21° F

6:30 AM

13° F; light

About 4 Sage Grouse flew over going nw.

Two Mule Deer crossed the road below the spring.

We drove to Leavitt to get gas & other supplies & then we drove north <sup>again</sup> on US 395 to the jet with roads to Lundy Lake (west) and Bodie (east). First we drove to Lundy Lake & took a few pictures (lake, Red-tailed Hawk) & then drove east to Bodie via Cottonwood Canyon and then continued down Bodie canyon into Nevada. We visited Aurora, another ghost town but in much worse repair than Bodie. While Marr worked on the car &



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Nov. 23

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Murphy Spring, et. al to Sagehen Creek Field Station (cont.)  
explored mine shafts. Those near the canyon bottom were usually horizontal but those near hill tops or on side hills were usually vertical. Above the largest mine dump there was a shaft resembling # 4 in Bodie. I stayed in the vicinity of this shaft from 2:30 to 3:00 pm and no rose finches appeared, suggesting that rose finches are not using these shafts, at least not this early in the winter.

Several Red-tailed Hawks were seen, both light & dark phased birds.

We returned north on US 95 via Hawthorne, Yerington, Fernley & then ~~west~~ through Reno to Truckee, then north to Sagehen Creek Field Station. There we fed the birds extensively with canary seed & a few meal worms. The birds eat vigorously even when held snugly in the hand. Only a few of the birds had received any food up to this point (over 24 hrs since capture). We found that they could not husk canary seed unless it was first boiled (softened) but later I learned this was probably because my seed was old & dry. The wet seeds were usually husked before swallowing rather than swallowed whole though certain individuals appeared to swallow many seeds whole. Meal worms were sometimes swallowed whole, but more often they were cut up ~~into~~ into short pieces as the worm was worked down. ~~the~~ ~~the~~

Occasionally a worm would be cut in on or two places &





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968Nov. 23 Murphy Spring to Sagehen Creek Field Station (cont.)

The guts squeezed out into the mouth, while the exoskeleton was discarded. We found that the birds were sufficiently "tame" & intent on feeding that we could release our grip on them & they would not fly away.

Nov. 24 Sagehen Creek Field Station to Berkeley

It snowed 6 to 8 inches overnight. Chains were required on the Sagehen Rd but not over Donner Pass (though the road was icy).



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 29

Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., Calif.

Drove up Strawberry Canyon & over top passing golf course & Botanic garden & continued up part way to top of next ridge which over looks San Pablo Creek. Hiked out across a <sup>large</sup> grassy side hill (west facing) between the road & ridgetop. ~~There were~~ Eucalyptus trees line the ridge & road. The grass area is long (cross slope) & narrow (road to ridge) & thus much of it is within 100 yds of the edge. Vegetation consisted of grass (both dry & green), dill, mustard, & thistle. There were a number of clumps of Coyote Bush (Baccharis pilularis). Sky was overcast, Temp cool, Wind from west.  
2:30 - 5:00 PM.

Species accounts: Red-tailed Hawk (2 birds), Sparrow Hawk (1), Brown Towhee (common within 100 yds of edge), W.C. Sparrow (common), Golden-crowned Sparrow (common), & Song Sparrow (3 or 4).

Other Species:

Shrike - on top of 5 ft. cedar surrounded by grassland.

Stellar Jay - gave R.T. Hawk call from pine stand.

Red-shafted Flicker - heard calling from Eucalyptus grove.



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 30

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, sprinkling early, increasing to heavy rain by 3:30 PM. <sup>1 PM</sup> Total observation period: 1:00 - 4:30 PM.

The park has changed considerably since I was an undergraduate student at UC (1955-59). At that time there was more cover for birds than at present. The weeds along most of the Flats near the shore line are now controlled. The island was once a jungle & a paradise for birds. Now it is cleared & there is a bridge to it. The shrubbery has been pruned back considerably all along both ~~the~~ sides of the lake leaving few hiding places for secretive birds. Speed boats & water skiers race back & forth down the lake preventing use of much of the lake by waterbirds. Sandpipers & ducks fly in from San Francisco Bay when boats are still on the lake. The lake is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long <sup>& 100 yds wide</sup> (running N + south), & parallels the Freeway (Interstate 80) which separates it from the bay. It is surrounded by a narrow band of evergreen ornamental shrubs.

Species seen include:

Pied-billed Grebe - 6 (species account)

Arctic Loon - 1

Brown Pelican - 2

Snowy Egret - 3 (species account)

American Egret - 1

Green Heron - 1 (flies across lake & lands 15 ft up in cedar)

Common Goldeneye - 6 ♀

Bufflehead - 2



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## Journal

Nov. 30 Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Merganser - several, floating glance

Coot - 9

Killdeer - 13

Avocet - 2 (flying)

Ring-billed Gull - 1

Bonaparte Gull - 7 (species account)

Gull - other (Imma) - several

Kingfisher - 1 (flying with fish in beak)

Mourning Dove - 4 (feed on ground, 1 on roof top)

Water Pipit - 1 bathe in mud puddle, feed among Meadowlarks

Western Meadowlark - 7 feed in weedy flats

Brown Towhee - 3 (species account)

Fox Sparrow - 1

Song Sparrow - 2 } (species account)

White-crowned Sparrow - 4 }

Golden-crowned Sparrow - 1 }

Sandpipers, sp? - several

South of the main lake are 2 other smaller lakes, the southernmost being the best for birds (less disturbance, more surrounding vegetation than the other 2 lakes, considerable mud flats) and having the greatest bird density. Species:

Black-crowned Night Heron - 2 Imma.

Amer. (Common) Egret - 8

Pintail - ~~11~~ 11 ♂, 7 ♀

Common Goldeneye 1 ♂, 2 ♀

Coot 30





# Journal

R. E. Johnson  
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Nov. 30

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Avocet - 30

Gulls - several

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Other notes have been taken at Aquatic Park on the following dates:

Oct. 23, 1955 } yellow notebook

Sept. 12, 1956 }

Feb. 14, 1959

March 7, 1959

Jan. 28, 1967

Feb. 3, 4, 1967

May 5, 1967



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 1 Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, ground muddy. 9:50 - 10:50 AM. No water skiers or boats on the lake yet, but I didn't have time to check the entire lake + 2 smaller ones for birds.

Arctic Loon 1

Horned Grebe 1

Pied-billed Grebe 8

Brown Pelican 1

Green Heron 1

Common Egret 5 } (species accounts)

Snowy Egret 8 }

Scaup, sp? ♂ 1

Common Goldeneye 3 ♂, 5 ♀

American Coot 8

Sanderling 1

California Gull

Mew Gull

Bonaparte's Gull 9

Belted Kingfisher 1

Western Meadowlark 8

Brown Towhee 2



# Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 7. Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Eared Grebe	2
Pied-billed Grebe	12
Brown Pelican	2
Green Heron	1 Imma.
Common Egret	1
Snowy Egret	8 (+ 6 in small pond)
Black-crowned Night Heron	3 Imma.
Pintail	(small pond)
Canvasback	1 ♀
Common Goldeneye	6 ♂, 32 ♀ (also in small pond)
Bufflehead	(5 ♀ in small pond)
Ruddy Duck	(3 ♂ in small pond)
Coot	22 (also in small pond)
Killdeer	26
Willet	2
Dunlin	12
Sanderling	25
American Avocet	(30 in small pond)
Ring-billed Gull	2 (also in small pond)
Mew Gull	9
Bonaparte's Gull	27
Forster's Tern	1 Imma
Mourning Dove	
House Sparrow	6
Western Meadowlark	1
Brown Towhee	1
Song Sparrow	(beside small pond)

Sparrow Hawk - 1



# Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 7. Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Eared Grebe	2
Pied-billed Grebe	12
Brown Pelican	2
Green Heron	1 Imma.
Common Egret	1
Snowy Egret	8 (+ 6 in small pond)
Black-crowned Night Heron	3 Imma.
Pintail	(small pond)
Canvasback	1 ♀
Common Goldeneye	6 ♂, 32 ♀ (also in small pond)
Bufflehead	(5 ♀ in small pond)
Ruddy Duck	(3 ♂ in small pond)
Coot	22 (also in small pond)
Killdeer	26
Willet	2
Dunlin	12
Sanderling	25
American Avocet	(30 in small pond)
Ring-billed Gull	2 (also in small pond)
Mew Gull	9
Bonaparte's Gull	27
Forster's Tern	1 Imma
Mourning Dove	
House Sparrow	6
Western Meadowlark	1
Brown Towhee	1
Song Sparrow	(beside small pond)

Sparrow Hawk - 1





# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 15 Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Sunday. Hard rain most of day. Tide in & no mud flats exposed.

Loon (sp?)	1
Pied-billed Grebe	6
Brown Pelican	1
Common Egret	1
Snowy Egret	5
Black-crowned Night Heron	1 Imma.
Green-winged Teal	1 ♂
Scarp	1 ♀
Common Goldeneye	9 ♂, 1 ♀
Buffle head	4 ♂, 4 ♀
Merganser	3 ♀
American Coot	25
Killdeer	2
Belted Kingfisher	1
House Finch	2
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	1



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 26 Ganesha Park, Pomona, Los Angeles Co., Calif.

4-5 PM, cold, partly cloudy, rain earlier in day.

Hummingbird - high in Eucalyptus trees

Starling - 2 } on phone wires Together

Cedar Waxwing - 5

Western Bluebird - 2 or 3

Audubon Warbler 1

House Finch 3

Bush Tit

Brown Towhee

Rufous-sided Towhee

Mockingbird

Robin



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 27 Bell Canyon, San Dimas Exper. Forest, Los Angeles Co., Calif.

I drove from Pomona through Glendora up the Glendora Mtn Rd to a point on the ridge above Bell Canyon where the trail heads down ~~at~~ the ridge forming the west boundary of Bell Canyon. This was followed down to the study plot I had studied several years ago in the spring following a fall fire. Prior to the fire the slopes were covered with dense mature chaparral. Following the fire only a few burnt skeletons of the large shrubs remained. Howard Cogswell had studied the <sup>birds of the</sup> plot before the ~~fire~~ fire. I censused it following the fire. Now, several years later, the area is again covered with brush, some places 8 ft high. However one can now navigate between the bushes much easier than in prefire days. No attempt was made to census the plot now since it is winter & the bird population likely differs significantly from spring breeding population.

The following birds were noted on the plots or along the trail leading through the birds to the plots. Only those checked (✓) were seen on the plots themselves.

Oregon Junco - in areas planted to grass.

Mtn Quail

Townsend Solitaire

House Finch

Red-shafted Flicker

Wren-tit ✓



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 27 Bell Canyon, San Dimas Exper. Forest, Los Angeles Co., Calif.

Western Robin ✓  
Mtn. Bluebird  
Cedar Waxwing ✓  
Brown Towhee ✓  
Calif. Thrasher ✓  
Scrub Jay  
Fox Sparrow ✓  
Green-backed Goldfinch ✓  
Bush-tit ✓  
Calif. Purple Finch

Most prominent plant species on the plots were Ceanothus crassifolius & Chamise. Other species include: Black Sage, Manzanita, Calif. Holly, Buckwheat, Yerba Santa, Rhamnus crocea.





# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 31 Fresno & Vicinity, Fresno Co., California

Jennifer Meux & I drove east from Fresno starting approx. 2:30 PM. Skies hazy, temp. cool, air still. We stopped 500 yds east of the junction of Ashlan Ave & Academy Ave and looked at birds in the surrounding fields & scattered trees & on phone wires & poles. The following species were seen:

Western Meadowlark - flock of 30+ feeding in field & flying together.

Lark Sparrow - several perched in lone leafless tree

House <sup>Finch</sup> ~~Sparrow~~ - row of 20+ on phone wire. Others in fields & in trees.

Starling

Say's Phoebe - one flycatcher from phone wire, post. <sup>part.</sup>

White-tailed Kite - 2 perch on phone wires 15 ft. <sup>part.</sup>

Red-tailed Hawk - 2 seen, each perched on a phone pole.

Western Mockingbird - several on phone wires

Shrike (sp?)

Sparrow Hawk - one phone wires

Water Pipit - 2 in field feeding

Red-shafted Flicker

Ground Squirrel (sp?)

Accipiter (Coopers Hawk?)

Audubon Warbler - one in lone tree with House <sup>Flycatching</sup> ~~Finch~~ <sup>Flicker</sup>.

Cedar Waxwing - flock on phone line flycatching

Brewer Blackbird

Killdeer

Common Snipe } along margins of flooded part of one field. 36+ Snipe



Journal

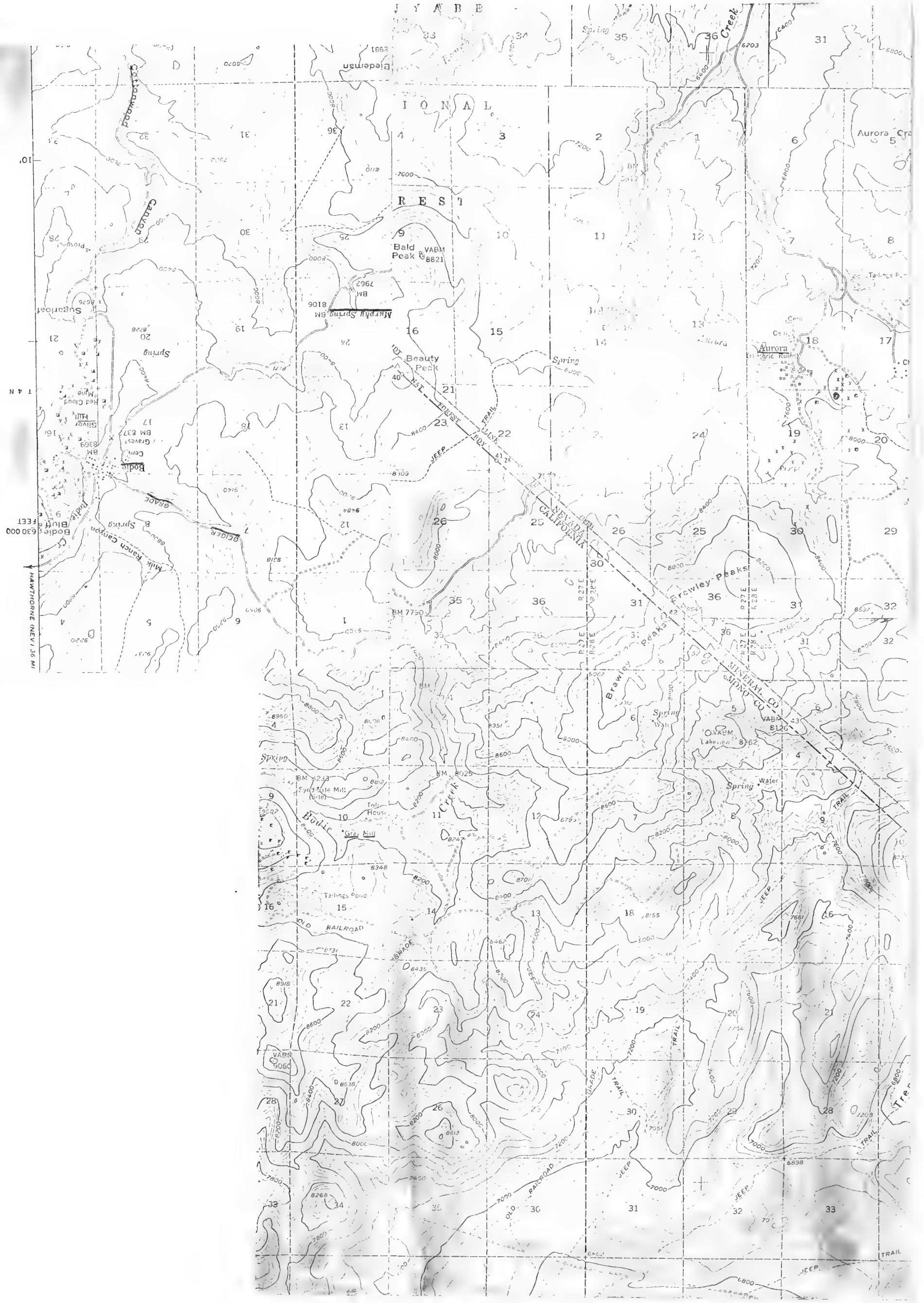
R. E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 31 Fresno & vicinity, Fresno Co., California

Mourning Dove

We continued driving east on Aslan Ave, then Watts Valley Rd. We stopped 3 miles east of where Aslan becomes Watts Valley Road. Here the road enters small rolling hills (grassy with a few scattered oaks). Oregon Juncos, Vesper Sparrows fed beside the road. One Brown Towhee was also seen.







Johnson, R. E

1968

Species Account





R.E. Johnson  
1968

## Pied-billed Grebe

Nov. 30

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, occasional rain. Group of 6 swimming in loose group, not diving synchronously, but foraging within 100 ft of each other. Usually submerge head first in dive but sometimes just sink feet 1st & head last as if sinking in quick sand. Occasionally also only surface so head (not neck) appears above water.



## Common Egret

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Dec. 1

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast skies, wet ground from 2 days of rain. At least 5 birds around lake. Three arrived & landed in on shallow spot (SW corner) near some Mew & Calif. Gulls & a Snowy Egret (not sure that Snowy Egret didn't arrive with them). One Common Egret then attempted to chase the other two ~~off~~ away by making sudden dashes in their direction & taking flight very briefly. Each time the pursued bird would also take flight for a few yards. The attacker finally succeeded in chasing the others off. The Gulls took flight twice in attempts to stay clear of the trouble. However the Snowy Egret was not attacked nor did it respond by staying clear of the action.



## Snowy Egret

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 30

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, occasional rain. Not disturbed by passing waterskiers & boats, but may make use of waves to turn up food.

Dec. 1

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast & wet ground. Boats not active this morning (about 10-11 AM). At least 8 birds seen, one was standing on end of pier where boats normally dock. Most were in shallow water near shore or on shore.

An Amer. Egret that was standing in shallow water aggressively chased 2 others away & repeatedly did so until they left the area, yet it totally ignored a Snowy Egret standing in the center of the action. Calif. & Mew Gulls were disturbed by the activities & tried to stay out of the way but the Snowy Egret appeared to ignore everything.



R.E. Johnson  
1968

## Red-tailed Hawk

Nov. 29

Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., Calif.

Overcast, cool, wind from west. 3:30 - 4:30 PM.

Two birds circle occasionally, but usually hover facing the wind (i.e. face west) over grassland (grass, dill, mustard, thistle; all mostly dry) west of the main ridge-top.

A Sparrow Hawk dove, circled, & harassed one of these birds. The R.T. gradually drifted south along the ridge (ridge is N-S) & the Sp. Hk. left it & returned north & out of sight. The two species certainly can't be competing for food but perhaps they do compete for hovering space along a one dimensional foraging ridge such as this one.

Usually the two RT's hovered  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile apart, but now & then they would move close (50-100 ft.) together & hover briefly, as if coming over to say hello, and then again separating. Once they <sup>ex</sup>changed positions along the ridge, the north one then occupying the area of the south one & vice versa. (see notes on March 3, 1967)

A Shrike foraged from the top of an isolated bush beneath one bird & paid no attention to hawk above.

The hawks disappeared between 4:20 & 4:40 PM. The wind continued but the sun was low & visibility was decreasing rapidly.





## Sparrow Hawk

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 29 Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., Calif.

Overcast, cool, wind from west. 3:30 PM. A

Sp. Hk. circled, dove, & harassed a Red-tailed Hawk which was hovering west of the main n-s ridge top over a grass & weed field. The RT drifted south and finally The Sp. Hk. turned & disappeared to the north. Perhaps they compete for aerial hovering space while foraging. They don't compete for food.



R.E. Johnson  
1968

## Bonaparte Gull

Nov. 30

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, occasional rain. A row of birds sit on mud bar 30 ft. out from shore. Forage much like terns, i.e. fly <sup>20 ft.</sup> over water ~~to~~ & then fold wings partially & plunge into water, but don't submerge in process.



## Brown Towhee

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 29 Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., Calif.

2:30 PM

Three or four individuals fed on ground in litter (leaves, twigs, both green & dry grass) under a large eucalyptus tree, which with one other tree, stand isolated & surrounded by grassland on a side hill. Small (5-10 ft. high) cedars have been planted at 20 ft. spacing all around the adjacent grassland. A dense eucalyptus stand is located across a paved road 50 yards down slope. When I disturbed the Towhees one flew 30 ft beyond the eucalyptus canopy cover & lit 4 ft up in the top of a tall dry weedy plant in a field of same. Others flew up into the lower portions of the 2 trees. I wonder how far into the grassland & away from shelter they will venture? I recall seeing them frequently on a mowed lawn early in the morning at Playfield here in Tilden (no specific notes taken). Trees ringed the grass but were some distance away.

I heard the high squeely note & usually associated with aggressive interaction & also the usual "chip" note.

4:15 PM. More Towhees encountered in tall (8-9 ft.) stand of hill located 100 yds from the nearest stand of eucalyptus. Between this & the previous observations I had been much further out in the field & though there were occasional brush patches, there were no Brown Towhees.

Nov. 30 Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, light sprinkle. Despite the narrowness of the band of vegetation (mixed ornamental evergreen shrubs) & the close proximity of a road, freeway, & water skiers, these birds &



## Brown Towhee

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 30 Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

several other species of ground Feders appear fairly common. These birds appear to adapt well to "civilization". Seen feeding in open with White-crowned Sparrows, a Water Pipit, & Meadowlarks, & also with a Golden-crowned Sparrow where nearer the shrubbery.





R.E. Johnson  
1968

## White-crowned Sparrow

Nov. 29 Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., Calif.

Overcast, cool. 2:30 - 4:00 PM. A group of about 30 feed on the ground amid grass (both green & dry) & weeds (dry) up to 4 ft. high. Once I disturbed them & many flew up into a weed patch, occupying a range of perches. A Song Sparrow appeared among them but stayed lower (max of 2 feet up) & then flew under cover. On another occasion the birds suddenly flew en masse to another weed patch. Twenty 5 were of the brown (dull) crowned form & two had black & white heads. These two occupied the 1st & 3rd highest perches. — Ops - Reexamination of this group indicates most of the dull forms were Golden-crowned Sparrows. Continued observation of this group substantiates the idea that, for this flock at least, the Black & White crowned individuals perch higher than the Golden-crowned sparrows. I can't be sure about the dull WC sp's (too few). Another flock of 10+ Black & White birds fed nearby (200 ft away), not intermixed.

The weed species in field include mustard, dill, & thistle.

Nov. 30 Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, sprinkle. Thin strip of vegetation (evergreen ornamental shrubs), waterskiers, & freeway haven't prevented the presence of this species. Three black & white headed & one brown headed feeding on ground with one Golden-crowned Sparrow & one Brown Towhee. The Towhee & WC sp. feed gradually out further into the open until 20 ft. from the shrubs, but the Golden-crowned sp. stays close to the shrubs. They feed among Meadowlarks & Water Pipit which have



White-crowned Sparrow

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 30

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

out in the open all along.



## Golden-crowned Sparrow

RE. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 29

Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., Calif.

Overcast, cool. 2:30 - 4:00 PM. Flock of 30 birds including a few (3 or 4) W.C. Sparrows and one or 2 Song Sparrows. All fed in weed + grass field + all flew off to weed tops when disturbed, but the White-crowned Sparrows tended to perch higher on the weeds than the rest. The Song Sparrow was more nervous + disappeared from the perch sooner. Thus the Golden-crown resembles the WC sp. is sitting still, but differs by perching lower. Weed species in field include mustard, dill, + thistle.

Nov. 30

Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, sprinkling. Feeds within a couple feet of shrubbery along with W.C. Sparrows + Brown Towhees but when later species drift out from shrubs (to 20 ft out), this bird stays within 2 or 3 feet of bushes + is left behind. It appears well adapted to "civilization" wherever dense shrubbery remains. Water-skiers, a freeway, + picnickers are all in close proximity.



## Song Sparrow

R.E. Johnson  
1968

Nov. 29 Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., Calif.

Overcast, cool. 2:30 - 4:00 PM. Twice single birds were observed amid a flock of W.C. sparrows which had flown up to ~~tops~~ of weeds in weed patches when startled. Can't be sure if the Song Sparrow was in the weed patch all along or not. In each case it remained on a lower perch than the other birds & shortly disappeared under cover low in the weeds or on the ground.

Further observations show that the Song Sparrow does feed among the WC & Golden-Crowned Sparrows on the ground in weed & grass cover. This cover is open enough to allow individuals to be followed <sup>with binoculars.</sup> as they forage, from a distance of 30 ft. away, yet it provides considerable camouflage & the birds could easily be overlooked.

While the other species sit on the weed tops without moving, the Song Sparrow is nervous, constantly flitting its wings & tail & it usually moves on while the other species remain perched & still for some time. Weed species in field include mustard, dill, & thistle.

Nov. 30 Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.

Overcast, sprinkling. One seen in bushes with W.C. & GC Sparrows & Brown Towhee in two different locations. In each case when the other birds dropped to the ground to feed & then drifted away from the shrubs, the Song Sparrow stayed in the bushes perched 4 ft above the ground watching the others & finally returned into the bushes. It appears to be more reluctant than the Golden-Crowned Sparrow to feed on the





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1968

Song Sparrow

Nov. 30 Berkeley Aquatic Park, Alameda Co., Calif.  
ground in the open.



Johnson, R.E.

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## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Jan. 24

Berkeley, Calif. to Reno, Nevada

Got a late start from Berkeley & there wasn't time to reach the mine shafts on Peavine Mtn. before dusk. I skated at Squaw Valley in the evening & then drove about 10 miles east of Reno and stopped for the night.

Jan. 25

Reno, Nevada to Salt Lake City Area, Utah

Highway east of Reno & all the surrounding land is covered with snow making the going slick & slow.

Many flocks of Horned Larks along the road in the vicinity of Fernley & to the east. Two Meadowlarks, a Raven, several Black-billed Magpies, a Red-winged Blackbird, several Brewer's Blackbirds and 2 House Sparrows seen near Wadsworth. Three Rosy Finches (L.t. littoralis) were collected from a flock of ~~the~~ roadside Horned Larks.

While I brought these notes up to date at the above site (15 miles e. of Fernley on Interstate 80, <sup>Churchill Co.</sup>), a flock of 40 Rosy Finches flew up & I collected 4 (~~one~~ <sup>3 Tephrocotis</sup> L.t. littoralis).

While retrieving these a flock of 100 rosy finches flew nearby. Time 10:30-11:00 AM. Another Rosy Finch (L.t.t. head type) appeared with a flock of Horned Larks & I collected it along with 2 Horned Larks (one shot). A Raven swept down & picked up a live Rosy Finch but it may have been injured by one of my earlier shots but escaped by flying off only to weaken later & be caught. The Raven carried it to a fence post & tore the feathers off, then flew to the middle of the road with it & continued tearing at it. Small numbers of other rosy



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Jan. 25 Reno, Nevada to Salt Lake City area, Utah

Finches continued to appear and a few were collected so that the total collected was 11 Rosy Finches & 2 Horned Larks.

I continued driving east on US 40 to Salt Lake City & beyond to camp high in the Wasatch Mtns some distance short of Heber City on US 40.

Jan. 26 Salt Lake City Area, Utah to Denver, Colorado

Stormy weather continues, but little snow falling now. Birds near Heber City include Black-billed Magpie, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, starling, & Sparrow Hawk.

1.6 miles w. of the Duchesne County line on US 40, where the highway descends a narrow canyon, a Flock of 200 rosy finches (apparently L. atrata) were seen on the highway. They flew off when several cars passed in succession. None could be collected.

The road continues a short ways down canyon before the canyon opens into a Flat or rolling area. Here 3 Magpies, 15 Pine Siskins, & a flock of 50 Horned Larks were seen.

Later in the vicinity of Roosevelt & Jensen 2 Shrikes, <sup>50</sup> English Sparrows, Starlings, Magpies & Horned Larks were seen.

I visited the quarry at Dinosaur Nat. Mon.; ~~the~~ no birds were seen in the monument.





R.E. Johnson  
1969

Jan. 26 Salt Lake City Area, Utah to Denver, Colorado

I came across a large flock (300) of rosy finches in eastern Colorado, 1.4 miles west of Elk Springs, <sup>Moffat County</sup> along US 40. These birds were feeding on roadside tumbleweed type vegetation protruding through the snow, much as the birds did in Nevada. ~~Five~~ <sup>Ten</sup> birds were collected at 4:30 PM, much later than birds return to the roost at Bodie & Peavine Mtn. Again these birds were L.t. tephrocotis & L.t. littoralis.

I continued driving on US 40 over the Rocky Mtns. to Denver.

Jan. 27 Denver to Boulder, Colorado

Picked up dryice and visited the State Dept of Parks, Game & Fish in Denver before driving to Boulder where I met Kathy Bell, took a brief look at the U. of Colorado Rosy Finch collection, & otherwise ~~visited~~ visited with Carl & Jane Bock. They were moving from one house to another at this time but generously took me in for the night & Jane prepared the best meal I've had on the trip & for that matter, since the start of this quarter.

Jan. 28 Boulder Co., Colorado

Drove to Nederland (8200 ft.) & looked for Rosy Finches with Kathy Bell. She has seen them around the area often in the past but none were around this morning. Nederland



R. E. Johnson  
1969

Jan. 28 Boulder Co., Colorado

lies in a small open park with forested canyon walls rising on either side. A reservoir fills the lower portion of the park below the town. Birds have been noted in the past in town ~~near~~ around a bird feeder, in the parklands <sup>one</sup> & below the dam. We explored some other roads, leading to a ski area & another to Caribou (old mining town now abandoned). Above Caribou we found a vertical mine shaft surrounded by a building & head rig but open enough for easy access for rosy finches. It was too early to expect to find them roosting.

We returned to Nederland ~~at~~ a little before dusk and saw 8 rosy finches sitting on a phone line in front of the house with the bird feeder. I couldn't tell the race in the low light & low clouds.

Jan. 29 Boulder, Jefferson & Clear Creek Counties, Colorado

Explored parks & meadows along several roads south of Boulder in the Front Range & found no rosy finches. First I drove west up Baseline St. in Boulder & followed its continuation up into the mountains past several small parks to the road terminus (in winter at least) above a large reservoir. One Shrike was seen. I returned to Boulder & drove south on Colorado Hwy 93 south through Golden to Red Rocks Theater and Morrison. A. Bailey had reported seeing birds in mixed flocks of tephrocotis, littoralis & australis.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969Jan. 29 Boulder, Jefferson, + Clear Creek Counties, Colorado

roosting in a cave above the theater. My visit was at midday however so no birds would be expected & none were seen. The rocks have many small holes suitable for roosting but I doubt if I saw the "cave" Bailey refers to. I should revisit the area someday at a latter hour.

Next I drove south to Morrison (1 mile so. of Red Rocks Theater) & then west up Colo Hwy 74 to Evergreen, then north to Bergen Park. There are a few small parklike areas around Evergreen (7000+ ft.) but the large parks near Bergen Park (7800 ft) are much more likely places to find rosy finches. None were seen but the search was far from thorough. I drove west again on Colo Hwy 103 into the higher mountains to Echo Lake & the Univ. of Denver High Altitude Station, which I visited briefly. Most of this route is timbered & the snow is over a foot deep. No parks for rosy finches. The road on to Mt. Evans was choked with snow & closed for the winter. I returned via the same route to Evergreen, arriving after dark & skating for an hour before returning to Boulder. It was snowing from Echo lake to Bergen Park on the return trip, but not below that level (no rain either).

Jan. 30 South Park, Park Co., Colorado

Left Boulder with Kathy Bell around 6 AM & drove



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Jan. 30

Boulder, Jefferson, & Clear Creek Counties, Colorado (cont.)

south via Colo. Hwy. 93 to Morrison & then SW on US 285 over the mountains to south park, a large open park extending southward for 50 miles or more. A light layer of snow covered the ground. Only the highway & cow trampled parts of pastures were bare of snow. ~~the~~ Mtns rise on either side. We stopped at several ranches & obtained permission to examine their barnyard areas for rosy finches. Everyone was quite friendly & agreed to let us look & even shoot birds.

The 1st ranch was located 1.2 miles NE of Jefferson (ie. 1 mi. N. & 0.7 miles east of Jefferson) on the west side of the highway, at 9500 ft.

Many <sup>about 60</sup> birds were feeding in one corral area both on the ground & in the feeding troughs. The flock was made up as follows: tephrocotis 70%, littoralis 20%, atrata 0%, australis 10%. I collected 21 birds: 14 tephrocotis, 3 littoralis, 2 intermediates (campestris-type) & 2 australis.

The next ranch was located 0.6 miles SW of Jefferson along US 285 on the west side of the road (0.4 mi. S. & 0.4 mi. W. of Jefferson). This was the G South Park Cattle Co. They preferred us not to shoot near the buildings & nearly all the birds were close by so we only collected one bird, a ~~tephrocotis~~ littoralis. There were at least 40 birds present, a few in each small hay pile. About 50% were littoralis & tephrocotis,






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Jan. 30 Boulder, Jefferson, & Clear Creek Counties, Colorado  
and the other 50% were australis.

The next ranch was another 0.7 miles southwest or a total of 1.3 miles SW of Jefferson along the highway + then 0.7 miles east on a dirt ~~for~~ road <sup>(1.3 mi. S. + 0.1 miles W. of Jefferson)</sup>. This ranch is also owned by the South Park Cattle Co. We also returned to this ranch later in the day + collected additional birds. The flocks appeared to be 80% tephrocotis, 15% littoralis, + 5% australis. One atrata was seen + collected. Only a few birds were seen at a time, but 26 birds were collected in all and many remained. Birds collected: tephrocotis 11, littoralis 6, atrata 1, australis 4, + 4 campestris type intermediates. At 4:20 PM there were a few birds feeding on the ground near the barns + many others roosting in cliff swallow nests located inside the barn along the ceiling center rafters.

We drove back out the dirt road + looked at a barn near where it joins the highway (1 mi. S. + 0.8 mi. west of Jefferson). Five birds were ~~feeding~~ <sup>an open</sup> feeding on a bare patch of ground outside ~~a~~ side door of the barn. These were collected (2 tephrocotis, 2 littoralis, + one campestris type). Inside the barn every rafter along the crest of the roof ~~was~~ was occupied by 2 rosy finches, one in each corner {  2 birds.

Some rafters held cliff swallow nests + in that case the



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Jan. 30

Boulder, Jefferson, & Clear Creek Counties, Colorado

rosy finches occupied these. I collected 11 australis & none of the other races, however tephrocotis & littoralis together made up 60 to 70% of the population.

This was done at 4:45 PM when the sun had set behind the mtns but it was still light enough to identify the birds using binoculars inside the barn. With my entry into the barn & with each shot there was some reshuffling of birds from roost to roost.

(Just prior to collecting in the barn above)

We also visited Fairplay, a town further south in South Park, where we saw a flock <sup>of rosy finches</sup> of perhaps 100 (the flock was often subdivided with parts out of sight) feeding at a bird feeder behind a house or sitting on the phone wires along the alley behind the house. Because of the lighting these were not identified.

Other birds seen in South Park:

Horned Lark

Raven

Magpie

Golden Eagle - W. of Jefferson

English Sparrow - Fairplay

Due to high winds (blowing from the west mostly) South Park is not deep in snow except where obstructions cause drifting. The tops of the vegetation protrude through the snow.



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969Jan. 31 Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

The day was spent stuffing Rosy Finches, catching up (almost) on field notes, and looking at Rosy Finches in the Aiken coll. at U. of. Colorado.

Feb. 1 Boulder, Boulder Co. to North Park and return, Colorado.

The route followed was south from Boulder on Colo. Hwy 93 to US 6, then west & north on US. 40 over Berthoud Pass (11314 ft.) and down into Middle Park, a series of small parks where rosy finches have been reported in earlier years. Records include (Kathy & I) Granby, Hot Sulphur Springs, & Kremmling. We visited each of these cities & checked many ranch yards enroute without finding any birds. Late in the day we turned north out of Middle Park on Colo. Hwy 125 over Willow Creek Pass (9683 ft.) in a blizzard & into North Park. The snow in Middle & North Park is deeper than in South Park. Fewer snowless areas were seen. North Park looked particularly inhospitable, perhaps because of the weather we experienced (wind, snowfall, & deep snow on the level). We stopped at dusk at a ranch north of Walden & obtained permission to examine his barn & corals. On the outside of the barn under the eaves we found House Sparrows & Rosy Finches roosting. Several cliff swallow nests were present & these were occupied along with more exposed sites. We collected the only 2 rosy finches we saw, an australis & a Tephrocotis. <sup>Error, both were</sup> australis.



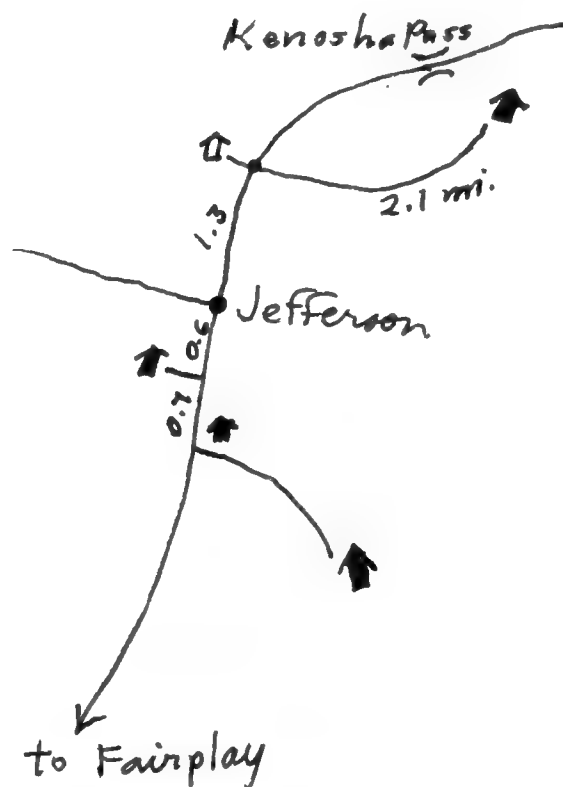
## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969Feb. 1. Boulder, Boulder Co. to North Park & return, Colorado.

We completed the trip after dark, driving north through Cowdrey & then ne to Laramie, Wyoming where we obtained a bucket of Colonel Sanders chicken and continued south to Boulder.

Feb. 2 Boulder, Boulder Co. to Leadville, Lake Co., & return, Colorado.

Kathy & I again drove south on Colo. Hwy. 93, continuing to Morrison, then following US 285 to South Park. We stopped at a ranch we had missed previously which is located just below Kenosha Pass and is reached by dirt road turning ~~we~~ east off the hwy 1.3 miles north of Jefferson. This ranch is also owned by South Park Cattle Company.



Legend  
 ↑ South Park Cattle Company  
 ⇈ Other Ranches

In the lee of the barns we counted at least 32 tephrocotis, 2 littoralis, 2 australis + 0 atrata at 9:30-10:00 AM. We collected 1 tephrocotis + 6 australis.

We continued on south to Fairplay & again saw





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 2 Boulder, Boulder Co., To Leadville, Lake Co., & return, Colorado  
 the flock of rosy finches at the feeder & on the phone wires. They also landed in the front yard of another house, on its roof and in a tall shrub & adjacent tree across the street.

We continued south with the intend to go to Salida where many birds have been collected in the past, however we ~~were~~ changed our minds & drove north through Buena Vista to Leadville instead. Near the Hwy. Jct. south of Buena Vista we saw a flock of Horned Larks. At Leadville we drove around the city hoping to locate ~~the~~ rosy finches with no luck & then drove up a dirt (snow covered) road through the old mining district. In the process I drove off the road into the snow & the remainder of daylight time was spent summoning a tow truck from town. Twenty \$ later we took some sunset pictures of the mtns to the west & then returned via the route we had come on. In south park we stopped to see if we could attempt to collect ~~the~~ rosy finches, <sup>alive</sup> from roosting spots in some low barns, but the rancher said this would disturb the cattle too much, so we abandoned this idea & drove back to Boulder.

Feb. 3 Boulder & Nederland, Boulder Co., Colorado.

Most of the day was spent with the bird skins



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969Feb. 3. Boulder & Nederland, Colorado

in the U of Colo. Museum, but Kathy & I also took an afternoon trip to Nederland & to the Science Lodge. We saw the Flock of rosy Finches at the feeder across from the Laundrymat (nearly all were tephrocotis) as they feed on the ground & sat on the phone wires. Finally they all flew off to the ne. We attempted to locate them on the Flats near the lake & above the lake on the open slopes with no success. Perhaps they were headed back to their roost since it was around 4 PM (very approx.).

Feb. 4-6 Boulder, Colorado

These 3 days were spent measuring birds in the Museum at the Univ. of Colorado. Among the many birds are 2 of special interest, one from Kodiak and another from Mt. Zirkel in no. Colorado. This latter bird is much darker than australis & surely is a hybrid between australis & atrata. Mt. Zirkel is ~~well~~ located at the nearest point in the australis range to the atrata range, a distance of at least 150 miles.



Journal

RE-Johnson  
1969

Jan - Feb. University of Colorado Museum, Boulder, Colorado

Mr. John R. Rohrer of the museum staff suggested several possible sources of more information & specimens of rosy finches. These included:

Stu McDonald, Nat. Mus. of Canada, Ottawa who collected in sp. & su. in western Canada.

<sup>John B</sup> ~~Ed~~ Hurley - Washington collector who may have RF's  
Yakima

~~Oakley~~ Thorne of Boulder  
Oakleigh

Museum of Nat. History  
State Univ. of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

birds collected in Idaho.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969Feb. 7 Boulder, Boulder Co. to Evergreen, Jefferson Co., Colorado

Moved out of Bock's house, bought a second large cooler to place my birds in, exchanged a few ideas with Kathy & left for Denver just before noon. In Denver I bought 52 pounds of dry ice, had the front wheel alignment checked & the tires (front) balanced, & visited the Denver Museum of Natural History. Dr. Bailey took me directly to the study skin collections with<sup>out</sup> any fanfare. They have a good sized collection of birds collected in Colorado (littoralis 1 tray, atrata  $\frac{1}{2}$  tray, tephrocotis 3 trays, & australis 3 trays), but so far as I could tell, few or no other birds. The trays are small but jammed with birds. There were about 175 birds on the 3 australis trays & even more tephrocotis. I made distribution cards for australis & then drove to South Park, arriving at Jefferson at about 7:30 PM (long after dark). I drove south of Jefferson 1.3 miles & turned left on a dirt road to the barn where I'd collected about a dozen australis from roosts inside a barn. I collected about 30 birds from the roosts by aiming my shotgun with the aid of a flashlight. Most were tephrocotis, but there were a couple littoralis & one australis. Australis had been much more plentiful before. The first bird was collected at 7:45 PM & had a TB of 31.8°, rather cold for a bird! Torpor? Several minutes later 2 more birds were shot & had TB's of 36.6° & 36.8°. Following the first shot there had been considerable fluttering in the rafters and I believe a few birds





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 7 Boulder, Boulder Co. to Evergreen, Jefferson Co., Colorado (cont.)  
 lefts the barn. Perhaps the first shot started all the birds toward arousal? A bird shot at 7:55 PM had a  $T_b$  of  $38.4^\circ$  and one at 8:00 PM had  $33.5^\circ$ . All of these were tephrocotis. A littoralis shot at 8:02 PM had  $36.0^\circ$ , a tephrocotis at 8:05 PM had  $37.2^\circ$ , a littoralis at 8:10 PM had  $40.2^\circ$  & an australis at 8:35 PM had  $37.4^\circ$ . There were many shots not listed above that preceded the australis. The other shots were listed in sequence. Most of the birds remained in place even when an adjacent bird, sometimes only 2 ft away, was shot. South Park had less snow & more bare ground near the barn than on my previous visits. It does not appear that the afternoon snowstorm touched this area. It did snow in Denver & Morrison & along the lower part of the road approaching South Park. It was clear at South Park with many stars. I drove back to Evergreen & noted they were resurfacing the large ice rink on the lake.

Feb. 8 Evergreen, Jefferson Co. to Granby, Grand Co., Colorado

I ice skated on the lake from 7:30 ~ 8:30 AM. It was  $+4^\circ F$  at 9:00 AM! Then I drove north through Bergen Park to US 40 & west through Idaho Springs & over Berthoud Pass, looking for rosy finches in route. None. I continued down into Winter Park & stopped in Fraser to look for finches ~~to~~ around the house, barns, etc. I drove 0.7 miles west of town on a dirt road & stopped



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 8

Evergreen, Jefferson Co. to Granby, Grand Co., Colorado  
 at a ranch. The lady said she had seen flocks of 100 or  
 so of the birds in the hay every now & then. There were  
 none present while I was there however. I followed the  
 road further to the west into timber where I encountered  
 a jeep stuck in the snow. An hour later I was  
 off again hunting for finches. The jeep driver suggested  
 I try the Fraser dump which is located west of town  
 on a road passing through the center of a saw mill  
 located on the north edge of town. When I arrived  
 at the dump there were 2 rosy finches foraging  
 in the bottoms of the trough scooped out by a  
 bull dozer. I collected one (australis) ~~but~~ but a  
 truck drove up before I could collect the other.  
 From this time on the day was a comedy of  
 unfunny events. Each time a rosy finch would  
 appear at the dump so would a truck. Often  
 the driver would select to dump exactly where  
 the bird was feeding. A flock of 50 rosy  
 finches landed on one occasion (appeared to  
 be australis) & smaller groups of 5 to 10 were  
 noted several times. I was unable to collect  
 additional birds due to the traffic so I drove  
 toward Granby to look at the dump there.  
 It is located 3 miles west of town & up the road  
 toward Walden a short distance on the ~~left~~ right.  
 There were no finches present, but there must have  
 been 30 Black-billed Magpies & 5 or 6 Ravens.



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 8 Evergreen, Jefferson Co. to Granby, Grand Co., Colorado  
In route to the dump I had stopped at one ranch where I saw several (5 or 6) Starlings & 2 Magpies. I also got stuck in the snow there & had to be pulled out.

After leaving the Granby dump I returned to the Fraser dump and cars & trucks were still coming & going regularly at 4 - 4:30 PM! This must be the town social center & surely I'd encountered half the population by now! I explored several dirt roads & snowshoed to some barns that looked hospitable to rosy finches. One contained cliff swallow nests but there were no finches.

Finally I drove back to Granby for gas, dinner, & a motel room to dry off in.

Birds seen at Fraser Dump & vicinity:

Black-billed Magpie

Raven

Brown-capped Rosy Finch

Mt. Chickadee

Steller Jay

Canada Jay

Feb 9 Granby, Grand Co., Colorado to Roosevelt, Duchesne Co., Utah

Considerable car trouble this morning due to the cold weather. Finally it was ready to function at 9:15 AM.

It was -25 in Granby & -27 in Tabernash last night.



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969Feb. 9. Granby, Grand Co., Colorado to Roosevelt, Duchesne Co., Utah

I returned to the Fraser dump and so did the other people at a feverish pace. I managed to collect 2 more Rosy Finches & a Black-capped Chickadee at 10:30 AM.

I returned again to Granby at about noon. At a ranch se of town there were many Magpies, Starlings & English Sparrows. At another ranch nw of town Starlings, Magpies & Red-winged Blackbirds were common. There were 2 Black-capped Chickadees at the Dump at 12:45 PM & I collected one. Two miles west of Granby there was a flock of 12 rosy finches Feeding along the roadside.

At a ranch near Hot Sulphur Springs there were Black-capped Chickadees & Black-billed Magpies.

I drove back & forth through Kremmling looking for houses with bird Feeders and found none. I also checked 2 ranches. The only birds seen were Black-capped Chickadees, Black-billed Magpies & English Sparrows.

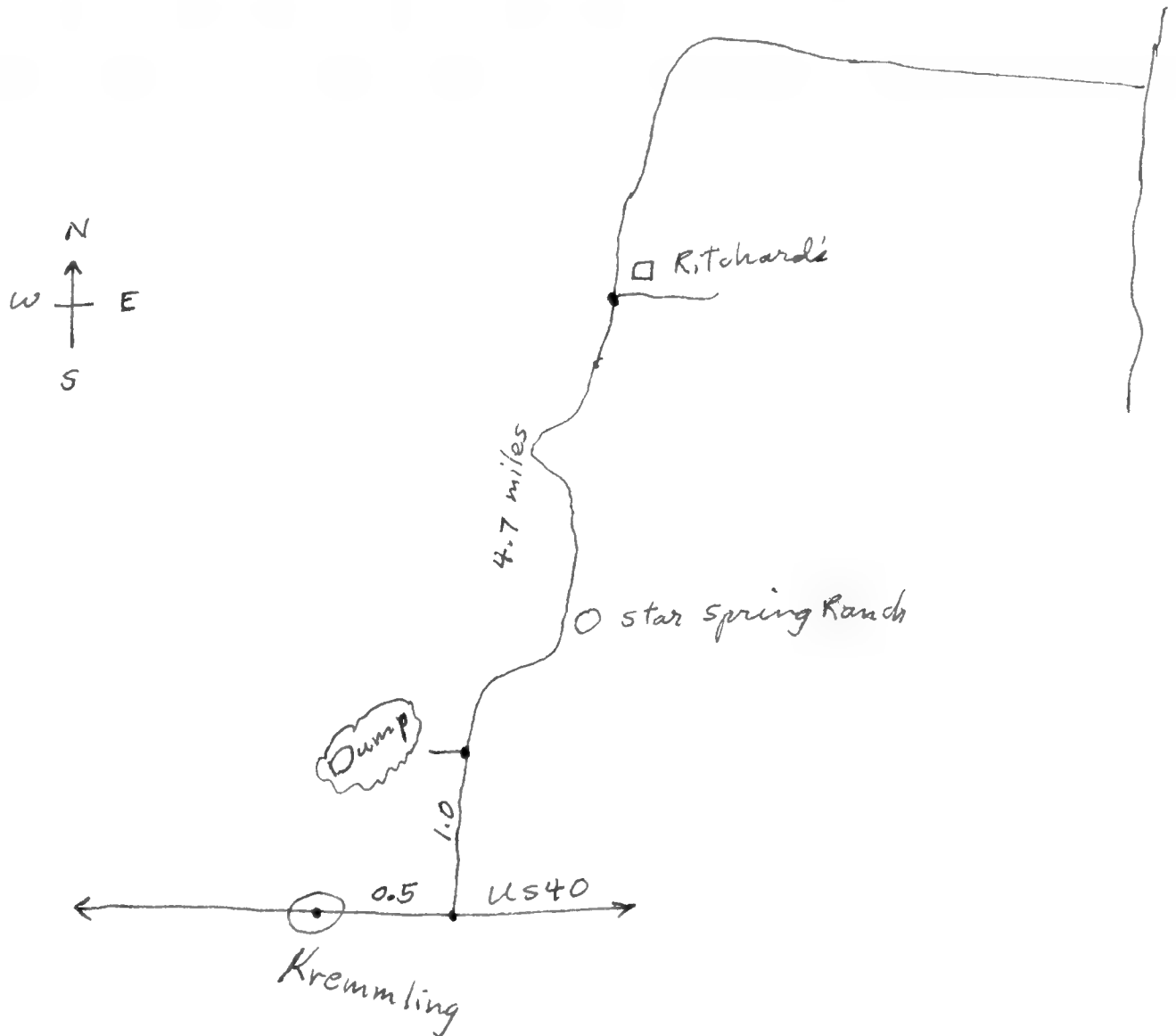
Starlings, Ravens & a flock of 25 Rosy Finches were seen at the Kremmling Dump between 3:30 PM & 4:10 PM. I collected 10 tephrocotis, 2 littoralis & 1 australis.

(See map on next page for location). I continued up The Back Troublesome Creek Rd another 4.7 miles to a house owned by the Ritchards. I had been told by a ranchers wife in Kremmling that Mrs. Ritchards has noted some pink~~e~~ winged birds near her house this winter & that she had never seen them before this year. Mrs. Ritchards was not home but one of her sons was there taking care of the place. He reported that





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969Feb. 9 Granby, Grand Co., Colorado to Roosevelt, Duchesne Co., Utah

Route to Dump & to Ritchard's Ranch up Back  
Troublesome Creek Rd.



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 9

Granby, Grand Co., Colorado to Roosevelt, Duchesne Co., Utah

he had noted dark chestnut-brown birds in & around the Feeding Troughs<sup>& hay</sup> in his corrals 18 miles west of Kremmling<sup>on US 40</sup>, on Muddy Creek. Directly north of Kremmling is a sizeable butte with vertical walls (Wolford Mountain) & a service station attendant told me that there are Cliff Swallow nests all over these walls. A road reaches the top of the mtn & a trail cuts across the mtn. just below the cliffs. Perhaps rosy finches roost in these nests. It was too late to check this out. I drove west to Roosevelt, Utah & camped in a roadside park.

Feb. 10

Roosevelt, Duchesne Co., Utah to Wendover, Tooele Co., Utah

Visited the Roosevelt dump, located south of town on a wash. Starlings & Magpies were present by the hundreds. Nearby Farms also had these species plus English Sparrows & Red-winged Blackbirds.

Further west I stopped at Duchesne & drove up Indian Canyon  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the dump (no birds) & then 20 miles further up canyon (pretty).

Later I collected one Piñon Jay from among a group (20) feeding along the roadside 0.4 mi. east of the Jct. of Utah Hwy 208 & US 40.

At Heber City I checked the dump (Starlings, & English Sparrows) & several ranches (Magpies, Starlings, & English Sparrows).

At Parke City an employee of the city said there



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 10 Roosevelt, Duchesne Co., Utah to Wendover, Tooele Co., Utah  
were often ~~English~~ "Starlings, Maggies + Crows". I saw only Starlings. A nearby ranch had English Sparrows, Maggies, + Starlings.

I drove on to Salt Lake City + west to Saltair Amusement Pier where rosy finches are known to roost. I was surprised to find the road to it blocked by a cable + ~~signs~~ no trespassing signs. I next drove south to Bacchus to Hercules Powder Company where Mike Hess had found rosy finches ~~roosting~~ roosting. The security people took the hard line that Mike should never have noticed the birds in the first place since he was paid to guard, not notice birds. They also made it sound like it took an act of congress for an outsider to get permission to enter the area. I did meet a sympathetic guard but he lacked authority to let me enter.

I ice skated at the Magna Ice Rink for 2 hours that evening + played games with all the kids (6-12 yrs old). I haven't had so much fun skating nor as good a work out in years. Drove west to Wendover area + camped.

Feb. 11. Wendover, Tooele Co., Utah to Berkeley, California  
Checked the dump north of Wells, Nevada + found only Ravens + Starlings.

Thirty seven miles east of Elko I saw a flock of



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969Feb. 11 Wendover, Tooele Co., Utah to Berkeley, Calif.

200 rosy finches feeding along the roadside. I collected one at 10:30 AM. The others flew off & could never be approached closely because of the traffic.

There was much less snow along the highways of Nevada on my return trip than in late January.

I visited the lower mineshaft on Peavine Mtn, near Reno, between 4:45 & 5:45 PM and the shaft contained around 100 birds. They could ~~only~~ be driven from the shafts in small numbers only with considerable effort (yelling, waving arms & throwing torrents of rocks) & then they would dive direct back into the shaft. I collected a few birds. Some adjacent areas were snowless & others up to 2 feet deep with drifted snow. Snow 1 ft. deep surrounded the shaft.

I drove on to Berkeley, arriving around 11 PM.





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969Feb. 14 Berkeley, Calif. to Reno, Nevada.

Got away from Berkeley about 2 PM, and arrived at Truckee well after dark, too late to hunt Rosy Finches on Peavine Mtn, so we (Jenny & I) went ice skating ~~at~~ ~~the~~ at Squaw Valley & then drove to the Sagehen Creek & started to snowshoe in in a blizzard. There was no sign of the road or the skidoo tracks & route finding was nearly impossible due to wind driven snow in our eyes. We turned back to the car & drove down to Reno for the night.

Feb. 15 Reno, Nevada & Truckee, Calif. areas

Drove back to Sagehen and I snowshoed in to arrange a skidoo ride for us & our equipment in the evening at 8 PM. It took only 25 minutes to snowshoe in 2 miles! We returned again to Reno & then up Peavine Mtn to the <sup>mine</sup> shaft NK Johnson & John Spencer had found birds in. I had seen about 100 birds there last week. We spread seed all along ~~there~~ one side of the shaft in hopes that birds would feed there & that we could trap them there the next day. The shaft was already full of birds on our arrival.

We returned again to Sagehen.

Feb. 16 Sagehen Creek, Calif.; Peavine Mtn, Nevada; to Berkeley, Calif.

Beautiful weather this morning (it had snowed on the



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 16

Sagehen Creek, Calif. to Peavine Mtn., Nevada, to Berkeley, Calif.  
 previous days). Jenny & I each took off in separate directions on snowshoes looking for Oregon Juncos (we didn't see any) and taking pictures. The snow was  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep at the Flagpole. I saw <sup>two</sup> ~~one~~ White-headed Woodpeckers, a Hairy Woodpecker, a Cooper Hawk making a diving attack on something <sup>or near</sup> the ground (but out of my sight), & many Mountain Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Jenny indicated she had heard Kinglets & Creepers also. Vernon gave us a ride to the road at 12 noon & we drove back to Truckee, Reno & Peavine Mtn. We had to carry a load of things (traps, mist nets, cages, gun, etc.) up the road through snow & mud to the shaft. We arrived at the shaft at 2:45 PM (after hearing birds, <sup>finches</sup> ~~in~~ rosy near the hole about 5 minutes before as we started up the last hill in deep (16 inches) snow. We immediately stretched the net over the hole but while we were still holding the net in our hands a bird flew out (2:50 PM) & got caught. <sup>we removed it.</sup> At 3:00 PM we caught a 2nd bird in the same manner & a 3rd bird flew out via the side shaft. At 3:40 PM 2 birds flew in & then out again. At 3:50-3:55 - several overhead but did not enter the shaft. At 4:02 PM a flock of well over 50 birds arrived & flew into the shaft. A few got caught & the remainder veered off, swirling around over the hole & diving low over it but staying clear of the net. They continued flying about in this manner & at least once landed in nearby trees. We removed the net & started



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 16

Sagehen Creek, Calif. to Peavine Mtn, Nevada to Berkeley, Calif.

extracting the birds from it & placing them in cages. Meanwhile the birds circled overhead & flew into the shaft even though we were right on the lip of the shaft. We finally moved off 30 ft or so in ~~the~~ case our presence was preventing others from entering. Earlier we had placed about 9 Bailey traps around the hole baited with seed. One bird was caught in these. I also collected 11 birds with a shotgun. We replaced the mist net over the hole & then tried to disturb the birds in the hole so that they would fly up into the net. A few did this but in general this wasn't very successful. The birds tend to bounce off the underside of the suspended net & not get caught even though the net was hanging as loose as possible. Few birds could even be disturbed enough to drive them up as high as the net. Most remained on ~~their~~ perches. There appeared to be between 100 & 150 birds in the shaft. After some time we placed a mist net over the side hole also & then shined a strong ~~light~~ light into the shaft. This immediately ~~set~~ the birds into flight & large numbers get caught, especially in the side shaft where there had been no net on the previous occasions when they had flown up & found the net across the main shaft. We removed the birds from the nets by about 8 PM, packed up & headed for the car. We



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969

Feb. 16 Sagehen Creek, Calif., to Peavine Mtn., Nevada, to Berkeley, Calif.  
arrived at Berkeley at 2 AM.

The total loot for the trip was: 11 dead birds & 46 alive. Of the live ones 11 died in captivity in the days immediately following (4 on Feb. 17, 3 on Feb. 19, 1 on Feb. 20, 1 on Feb. 23; 1 on Feb. 24 & 1 on Feb. 26). Two of these were given to Ward Russell to make skeletons (those from Feb. 20 & 23, both tephrocotis head type). Littoralis was the prevalent race: 6 of those shot, 5 died later

& 20 remained alive for a total of 31 littoralis.  
Tephrocotis head type: 4 shot, 6 died later, & 15 lived making  
25. ~~25~~

One bird that was shot had much of his head removed but it appears to be littoralis.





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 16

Berkeley, Calif. to Fallon, Nevada

Left Berkeley a little after 4 PM. Sky cloudy over the Bay Area & clouding up some in the Sierras. It had been clear & warm for several days preceding this.

Followed Interstate 80 over Donner Pass, did Skated at Squaw Valley & then drove on east to Fernley & took US 95A & 50 through Fallon & camped near the Stillwater Jct. No snow seen so far along the highway in Nevada. Of course there was plenty of snow on Donner Pass, perhaps a record amount being well over the top of the truck.

March 17

Fallon, Nevada to Baker, Nevada

Drove on east on US 50. Saw few birds — only a small number of Horned Larks and one Raven before reaching Frenchman. A little further east the road begins to climb some & snow comes down along the road. The peaks are deeply covered. Horned Larks became a bit more common along the road. I saw 2 more Ravens & a Maggie before reaching Austin & 3 Maggies east of town. Also 3 Starlings & an English Sparrow in Austin. East of Austin summit the road descends through a Pinon Juniper forest where I saw a number of Plain Titmice and a Scrub Jay. In the valley, to the east (near Jct with Nevada 8A) I saw 2 Mtn Bluebirds, 1 Meadowlark, 1 English Sparrow (at some buildings) & one Say Phoebe. Further east the ground is again snowcovered (2-4 inches). There is a



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 17

Fallon, Nevada to Baker, Nevada

large ranch yard (snowfree) further east at the sight of the Bratone Ranch of the Eureka Ranch Co. Besides the 150 head of cattle there were Pintail + Mallard ducks, Meadowlarks, Horned Larks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Starlings, a Raven, 12 Oregon Juncos, a Black-billed Magpie, 3 Mtn. Bluebirds, 2 Killdeer, one English Sparrow, 1 Robin, 4 Green-winged Teal, 5 Cinnamon Teal & 1 Crow. Just east of this is a pond where 50 ducks (Pintail & Green-winged Teal mostly) & 20 Gulls (Calif. Gulls?) were feeding before I discovered them. They took flight immediately. Quite an oasis in this barren sage country!

I reached Eureka (elevation 6837) at 11:30 AM and noticed 3 roxy finches just inside the city limits feeding near a pile of baled hay. There were also House Sparrows & Oregon Juncos present. Both L.t. tephrocotis & littoralis were present. I asked a man who lived across the street who owned that property & he said he did. After some discussion & warning by him that since I was inside the city limit the sheriff could arrest me, he gave me permission to collect on his property. Just then his wife appeared screaming her head off that I couldn't do it. The husband disappeared and after some time she agreed that I could do it — it was my neck. She



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 17

Fallon, Nevada to Baker, Nevada

only agreed she wouldn't call the sheriff. If someone else did then she may well have been on their side. Somehow the situation struck me as precarious. Who wants to spend the night in jail in Eureka?? So I went to see the sheriff. This required waiting until he returned from lunch. He was very sympathetic & wanted to help but was unsure what kind of trouble might arise if he gave me permission & then some local citizen called him in protest. I suggested he come along with me. He rounded up a deputy & the deputy drove <sup>in the sheriff's car</sup> me back to where I'd seen the birds. By now it was 2 PM, the Juncos had increased, the House Sparrows decreased & the Rosy Finches were gone! Meanwhile a Nevada Fish & Game man came by & stopped to see why I & the deputy were out there with a gun. Things now looked so official that no citizen would be apt to squawk but there were no birds. We then drove just out of town on a ~~the~~ side road to some barns owned by the same man. Here I found a flock of 250 - 300 Rosy Finches! I collected 26. Six were littoralis, one was atrata (the only one



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 17

Fallon, Nevada to Baker, Nevada  
in the flock) & the remainder (19) had tephrocotis like gray heads. At least two of these were wallowa or tephrocotis x atrata hybrids. All except the atrata were collected at random (9 shots were fired) & the proportion of races collected should represent a 10% random sample of the population. I could easily have collected many more but it didn't appear wise to push my luck with all the people concerned. The Flock walked all around me & within 3 or 4 feet. At the first shot they rose into the air & acted as if to leave. By the 4th shot they totally ignored the shots & fed on as if nothing had happened. Bird collected 2:30-3:00 PM.

The snow on Piute Summit (7376 ft.) just east of Eureka was 7 to 8 ft deep! By the time I reached Ely it was getting dark. There was little snow on the ground. I continued east on US 50, then turned south to Baker where I visited & spent the night with Mike Hess & family (wife Pat, 2 girls: Kelly & Cory). Mike & I talked about rosy finches until 2 AM! Among the interesting points made by Mike were that Rosy Finches remain at Saltair (Utah) until mid May, long after French and King & Wales said





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 17

Fallon, Nevada to Baker, Nevada

They had all left. Again unlike the observations of others Mike found the birds were 95% atrata at both Bacchus & Saltair in 196? .

Several years ago he took some <sup>body</sup> temperature data of Rosy Finches at the roosts at Bacchus at 8 PM & 4 AM. He had several quite low TB's including one around  $31^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This correlates well with my data from the barn in South Park in Colorado. He loaned me this data.

We also examined his data on <sup>fat</sup> scoring (he used 6 classes of Fat) as related to snow cover & air temperature. The correlation with snow cover was best but not clear enough to be sure at all. It might take several winters to resolve the matter & there is little chance he can do it now that he's out of money, <sup>& school, and is</sup> ~~is~~ working full time at the Fish Hatchery near Baker.

He had a letter from Behle indicating that the latter had found an albino rosy finch this winter.

Mike had collected a couple atrata - tephrocotis hybrids near Saltair (or Bacchus?) & Behle<sup>s</sup> was suggesting they write up these observations for a note.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 18

Baker, Nevada to Grand Junction, Colorado

The drive through Utah proved to be as boring & uneventful as usual — or worse since I didn't ice skate this time. I found no rosy finches. The route was US 50 to Delta, Utah, then Utah # 26 to Holden, then US 91 north Nephi, then Utah #'s 11 & 116 to Mt. Pleasant, then US 89 to Thistle, then US 6 & 50 through Price & Green River to Colorado. At Milburn<sup>4 PM</sup> (Sanpete County) I saw Black-billed Magpies, Red-winged Blackbirds, English Sparrows, Starlings, Meadowlarks, a Raven & a Northern Shrike. The snow was about a foot deep. From Milburn to Soldier Summit it rained lightly. Just west of Soldier Summit I saw a Piñon Jay at 4:40 PM.

Camped & cooked along the roadside east of Grand Junction a few miles.

March 19

Grand Junction to Boulder, Colorado

I started up the highway toward Glenwood Springs and it was soon clear that the engine was missing badly. It seemed unwise to continue, especially when such high passes lay ahead. I returned to Grand Jct to a GMC garage which immediately attended to my problem. I was on my way again before 3 PM, after a complete tuneup. Snow covers the highest peaks around Grand Junction but there was none down near the



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 19

Grand Junction To Boulder, Colorado

highways. Nothing approaching 90% snowcover on the level was found until Eagle. By the time I reached there it was after 4:30 PM, meaning the rosy finches had probably left for roost sites before I arrived. I did check several barn, hay & corral areas but saw only Juncos, Starlings & Maggies. There was a short blizzard ~~was~~ around the Vail area, then a break in the clouds, then clouds over Loveland Pass, but clear to the east. I drove on to Boulder where I talked to Carl Book & Kathy Bell until fairly late. Kathy suggested several places to check for Rosy Finches in Nederland & I drove there & camped at 1:30 AM.

March 20

Boulder & Nederland area to Denver, Colorado

Up at 6:20 AM. Sky hazy with clouds. Breeze. No rosy finches at the laundramat area<sup>#1</sup>, or by the house up the hill west of town<sup>#2</sup>, but they were sitting above a house (#3) in a tree & on wires located n~~e~~ of town & below the school. Initially (6:45 AM) there were 30 visible but within 5 minutes the numbers increased to 200 all in the air at once. They seemed to be arriving from behind me (w or nw). They circled & soared for several minutes & then flew at a rather high altitude west toward Cariboo (6:51 AM). I made the rounds again (of #1 & 2) & then returned & there were 15 more which were just leaving to the w or sw (7:20 AM). I checked all the sites again, drove north



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 20

Boulder & Nederland & vicinity to Denver, Colorado.

to Glacier Lake & back, then up the Cariboo Rd until drifted snow prevented passage, then checked the 3 sites in Nederland again (no birds) and stopped at the Washateria at 9 AM to bring these notes up to date. I talked to the lady that runs the Washateria & while I was in her house (9:20 AM) a flock of 40 flew up & landed on the wires. They flew ~~up~~ down to the ground, then back to the wires, then east to the wires above the next house, then to the ground in front of that house & back to the wires again. They continued in this manner back & forth between wires & ground in front of the 2 houses for 15 minutes & then flew off to the west. They were mostly L. tephrocotis, but there were a few littoralis & at least one australis. Probably:

85% tephrocotis, 10% littoralis, 5% australis.

The lady said they hadn't seen many for about a week & the larger flock that we just saw was the largest they'd seen this week. She said they hadn't put out any new feed (there was still some old seed visible on the ground & bird feeder) in several days since it appeared the birds were largely gone now. She usually get large flocks of blackbirds next. So far only a few have shown up this year. She said the roxy finches

usually come very early in the morning & again late in the day just before dark. She said they get fewer now than several years ago, perhaps because a number of other people in the area feed them too, thus





## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969March 20 Boulder & Nederland & vicinity to Denver, Colorado

dispersing the flock somewhat. One day several years ago she estimated they had 2000 to 3000 birds all at one time. This year they have put out about 300 lbs of seed which they buy in 100 lb sacks at the Ideal Feed Store in Boulder. From her description it appears they do see a few black rosy finches. She didn't ~~mind~~ mind if I trapped or netted birds in her yard. She mentioned that two other families <sup>(Coles & Snyders)</sup> were feeding the birds south of here on Colo. Hwy 119 above the Eldora Road. Also they are often seen in flocks near the mill (below #2).

I next drove to the 2nd house (on hill) to talk to that lady but she was away (Mrs. Conner) but the lady in the next house up the hill was present & very helpful. She said Kathy had been up there looking at the birds too. She said the birds didn't show up until mid Dec & at first they fed early in the morning (6:30 AM when she got up regularly the birds were always there) & late in the day. More recently they seem to be around at most anytime, for example 9-10 AM a few days ago when they were molting and today during the same period. She said they usually flew in from the north (from the direction of #3 or perhaps the mines over that hill) & late in the day they returned to the north. She pointed out a grass house below & across the creek where some people also feed them. She said Mrs. Conner said she saw a black or a brown (?) one a day or two ago. Whichever it was was considered very unusual. Mrs. Conner



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# Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969

March 20

Boulder & Nederland & vicinity to Denver, Colorado

puts out feed for them regularly.

I saw a flock of 80 of them on the wires above the Connors house. A partial count gave the following: 24 tephrocotis, 10 littoralis, & 2 australis. They came & went several times before 10:00 AM when there were 7 birds remaining in a tree above the feeder as I drove off. The birds seen coming & going appeared to be flying to the green house (mentioned above) or to house #3.

at 12:15 PM I visited the green house & saw <sup>several</sup> feeders. There were Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, Stellars Jays, & Clark Nutcrackers using it. I spoke to the lady & she said that she hadn't seen rose finches this week (earlier in the day I had seen some flew over her place but not land). She said they were present in Jan - early March and it sounded as if she only got small numbers of them compared to some of the other locations in Nederland. This could be because her house is not so much out in the open & there are more pine trees around which may mean she gets more big birds (jays & nutcrackers) which prevent the others from feeding. My first impression was that this lady knew little about the birds & was <sup>also</sup> afraid to talk much to a strange man, but this may not be so. She was about to leave & was in a hurry (all dressed up) & her comparative lack of interest in conversation could be related to this. The presence of Starlings is interesting. Kathy had just suggested last



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 20

Boulder + Nederland + vicinity to Denver, Colorado

might that the presence of Starlings may prevent the presence of Rosy Finches. This lady said both that the Starlings had been here about a wk & that she hadn't seen Rosy Finches in about a week. I had wondered about this sort of mutual exclusion as I drove back from Colorado on my last trip where it seemed I never found rosy finches at dumps <sup>or ranches</sup>, where there were Starlings. However I only saw Rosy Finches at 2 or 3 dumps & there were other bird species involved also, so that I felt I lacked enough data to draw any conclusion or even form Kathy's hypothesis. It's beginning to look more likely now.

Next I visited site #3 at about noon. There were no birds present then but Mrs. Snarely said that they occur off & on all day & that all she has to do is pour more food out & the birds would show up. She then put food out & within 10 minutes there were 50 birds there. The birds came & went but it was clear that most groups were 8 or 10 to 1 of leptocotis over littoralis. In the last group there were several browns. She is anxious to help me catch some birds & will get up at 5:30 AM to let me in & help set up traps &/or nets for that purpose! Her husband is the local minister (Presbyterian). She said the birds first arrive in mid-January. They also have Pygmy Nuthatches (I saw 3), Stellar's Jays, Clark Nuthatches, Mtn Chickadees & occasional W.B. Nuthatches.

Next I drove south to Rollinsville & w. to Tolland & East



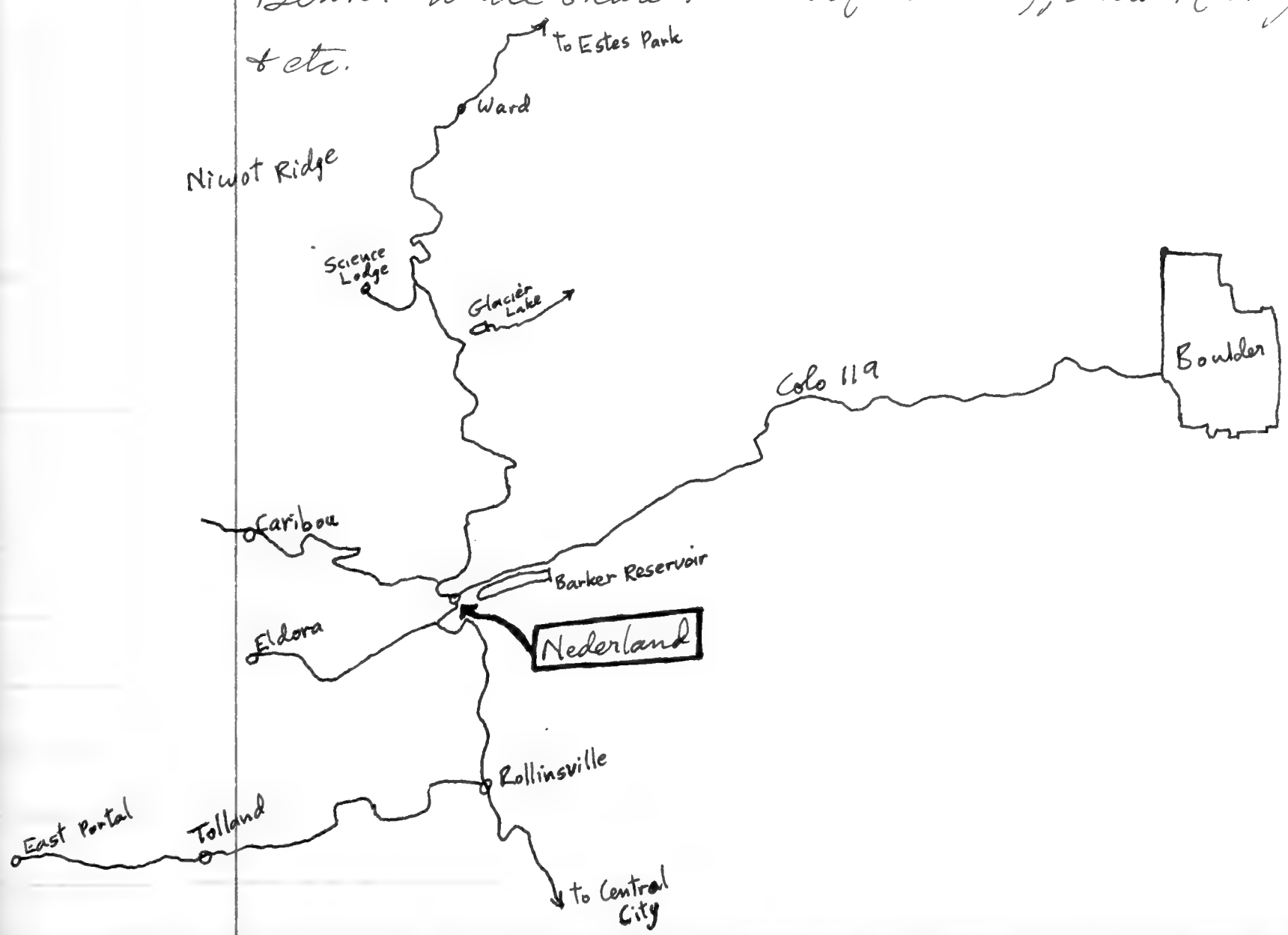
# Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969

March 20 Boulder, Nederland & vicinity to Denver, Colorado

Portal. At Tolland I found a flock of 40 rosy finches feeding in front of the cabin of Elsie Johnson at 2:30 PM. She said that in the early morning they number up to 200 birds. They are around all day & she can bring them in by putting more seed out & calling to them. The composition of the flock I saw was about 60% texanensis, 20% littoralis & 20% australis. On the return trip I found a flock of 40 at Rollinsville at 2:45 PM. Like the previous flock, australis appeared to be a significant percentage but due to the lighting & constant disturbance of the flock I couldn't make any accurate counts.

Drove back to Boulder to see Kathy, then on to Denver to ice skate for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr (too short), shower (1st of trip) & etc.





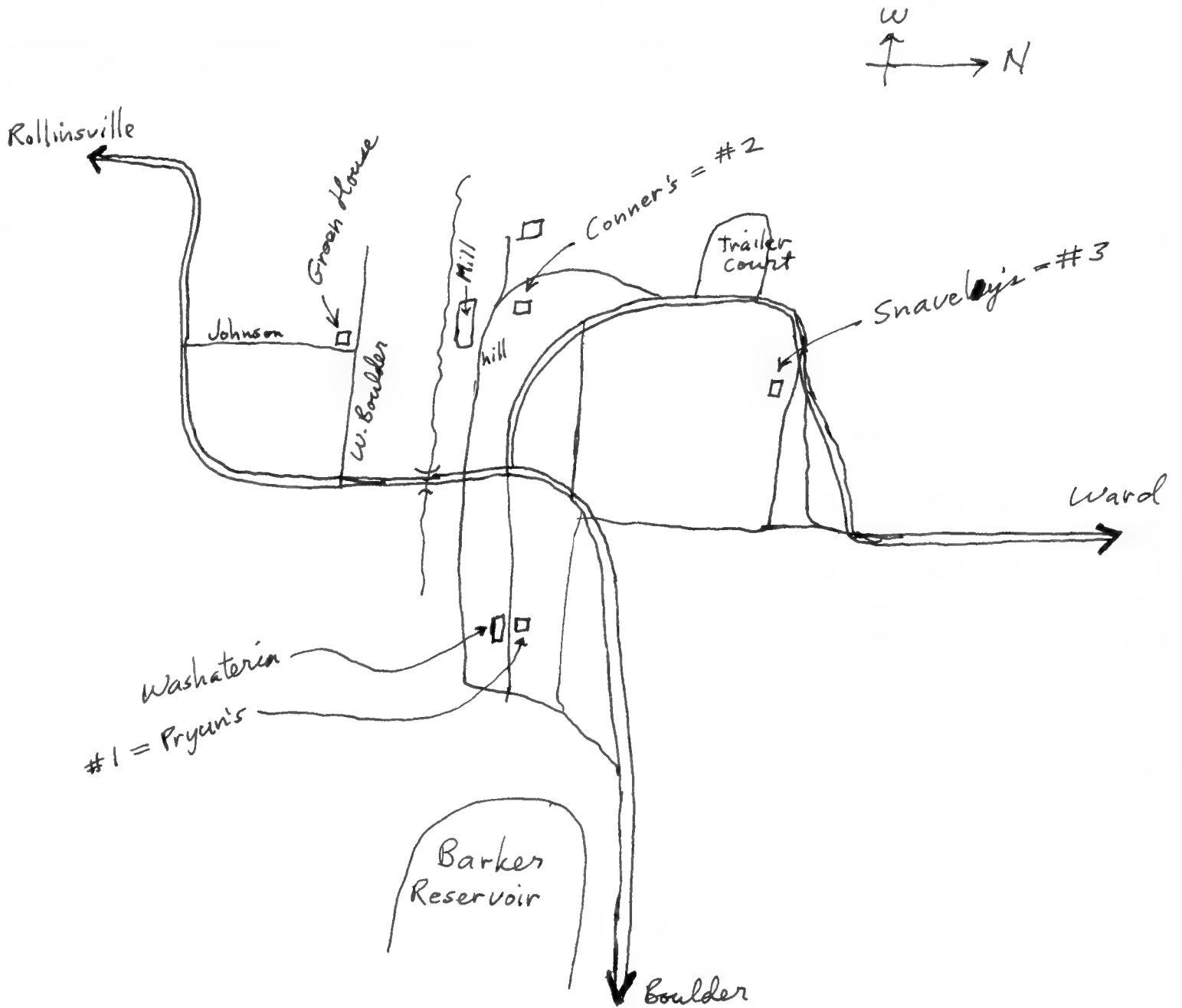


# Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969

March 20

Boulder, Nederland & vicinity to Denver, Colorado



CRUDE MAP OF NEDERLAND



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969March 21 Boulder + Nederland, Colorado

I drove up from Denver + Kathy from Boulder + we met at the Snarely's house at about 5:30 AM with the idea of netting the entire large flock of rosy finches on the Snarely's porch when they landed to feed just before 6 AM. Our plan required that there be little or no wind, but it was a windy day. We finally abandoned our idea + set out small live traps instead. By this method we obtained about a dozen birds. The Snarelys volunteered to continue trapping for me while I was away for a couple days so I left them some traps + cages.

March 21 Boulder to Poncha Pass, Colorado

We returned to Boulder, then drove south via Colorado 93 to Morrison + on to South Park via US 285. We visited the first ranch we had ever visited in South Park (Jan. 30, 1969 - referred to as #1) + obtained permission to trap rosy finches near the feeding troughs in the corrals. We trapped 14 birds <sup>(3 *littoralis*, 11 *tephrocotis*)</sup> between 4:20 PM + 5:40 PM when the last individual disappeared, apparently to roost for the night.

at about 5:45 PM we checked a barn east of Jefferson + found many Starlings + one Rosy Finch roosting.

at 6:15 PM we stopped at location 3A (the barn of Jan 30 + Feb. 7). There were many Starlings roosting but only 3 rosy finches. We also saw some Mtn. Bluebirds nearby (not roosting). We drove on + "camped" ~~near~~ north of Poncha Pass.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969March 22 San Luis Valley to Boulder, Colorado

We drove over ~~San~~ Poncha Pass into the San Luis Valley where Kathy reported seeing flocks of australis a wk or two ago. Just south of Alder<sup>(0.1 mi. south)</sup>, we saw a flock of 100 rosy finches that appeared to be predominantly australis. We examined a couple ranch yards that are unused in winter & found no rosy finches so we continued south to the Bagwell Herford Ranch<sup>(2.8 mi. S. of Alder on US 285)</sup>, where Kathy had seen many rosy finches recently. Now we saw no more than 15 total & never more than 4 or 5 at once. They appeared to be 2 to 1 in favor of australis over tephrocotis. Other birds present included slate-colored juncos, Oregon juncos, black-bellied magpies, starlings & English sparrows. We left at about 10:40 AM without having collected any birds. We had tried placing traps to no avail.

Other birds seen in the morning so far include: ptn., bluebird, robin, raven, sparrow hawk, horned lark, meadow lark & clay-colored sparrow. (7.0 mi. S. of Alder)

We visited another ranch further south, at 11:20 AM. We saw only 5 rosy finches (tephrocotis). The rancher said there had been about 300 2 hours earlier on the hay stacks! We also saw white-crowned sparrow, magpies, red-winged blackbirds, starlings, English sparrows & killdeer. We drove on south on US 285 to Saguache, Monte Vista & Alamosa, then north on Colo Hwy 17. The so. part of the valley had little snow & appeared poor habitat for rosy finches. In some ponds so. of Saguache we saw a pair of mallards & 3 pair of pintail.



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969March 22 San Luis Valley to Boulder, Colorado

We returned to the last ranch visited (then 11:20 AM, now 3:40 - 4:00 PM) & saw only 3 rosy finches (tephrocotis). We then went to the Bagwells & watched for finches as Mr Bagwell but out feed in the troughs. There were 3 or 4 present but they left before he had finished putting the feed out!

We drove back through South Park & I collected one tephrocotis from the barn (#3A). Its TB = 36°C. Time = 10:35 PM. Drove back to Boulder late.

March 23 Boulder to Nederland, Colorado

Slept in, then drove to Nederland. Kathy went on a geology field trip today. I visited the Snarelys. They had captured large numbers of birds between March 21 & 23 and had released many but saved many also, particularly australis. I spent the afternoon sorting the birds they had obtained, building more cages & trapping more birds. One bird that they had kept was weak & nearly dead - I performed the mercy killing (a tephrocotis). The Snarelys kept records of the time of capture of all birds by race for each day. These are as follows:

Friday - March 21.

	<u>tephro</u>	<u>litt</u>	<u>austr</u>
10:50 AM	1		
11:05	2		
12:45 PM	2		





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 23

Boulder to Nederland, Colorado

Friday - March 21 (cont.)

	<u>tephro</u>	<u>litt.</u>	<u>aust.</u>	<u>atrata</u>
12:50 PM	1			
1:25	1	1		
3:30		1		
3:45	5	1		
4:00	2			
4:25	6			
4:28	2		1	
4:50	1			
4:55 PM	2			

Saturday - March 22

6:10 AM	3	3		
6:22	5		1	
7:15	3			
7:25	1	2		
8:10	3			
8:25	3	1	1	
8:28	2			
8:30	1			
8:43	3	2		
10:06	2	1		
10:30	1			
12:50 PM	1		1	
1:13	3	1		
1:20	7			
1:35	1			

[1] seen



Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 23

Boulder to Nederland, Colorado

Saturday - March 22

	<u>Tephro</u>	<u>litt.</u>	<u>aust.</u>	<u>atrata</u>
1:40 PM	8	1		
1:50	2	2		
2:40	1	1	1	
3:00	5			
3:45	4	1		
4:20	8			
4:35	4		1	
4:52	6			
5:35 PM	1			

Sunday - March 23

6:07 AM	6	1		
6:17	1			
6:28	1	1		
6:30	1			
6:35	3			
6:47	14	3		
6:50	7	4		
6:52	5			
7:48	4			
7:56	1			
8:00	2			
8:05	3		1	
8:10	1			

[Traps Closed during church 8:30 - 11:15 AM]

11:37 AM 10



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969March 23 Boulder to Nederland, Colorado

Sunday - March 23

	<u>tephro</u>	<u>litt.</u>	<u>aust.</u>	<u>atrata</u>
12:40 PM	1			
12:47	1			
12:50	1			
1:00	8			
1:55	1			
2:00	1			
2:16		1		
3:15	4	3		
3:37		4		
3:40	1			
3:43	4			
3:55	1		1	
4:00	7	1		

(Snow Flurry, birds fly off &amp; not seen again Sunday)

	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Total	191	36	8	0
	81.3%	15.3%	3.4%	

Comparative Data  
from March 20

Washateria #1	85%	10%	5%
Conneris #2	66.7%	27.8%	5.5%

I spent the evening as a chaperone at a young peoples meeting (or activity night) at the church (Nederland Community Presbyterian Church) and then slept on the couch just inside the windows from the Snarely's bird feeders.



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 24 Nederland, Tolland, Rollinsville, Boulder, Colorado

It starts getting noticeably lighter at 5:30 AM & by 5:55 AM we had all traps full of rosy finches, sometimes several to a trap. Records for the morning follow:

	<u>Tephro.</u>	<u>litt.</u>	<u>aust.</u>	<u>atrata</u>
5:50 AM	20	3	0	
6:15	2	0	1	
6:23	8	3	1	
6:25	6	0	2	
6:47	11	1		1
6:55	7	1		
7:01	6	1		
7:18	8			1
7:35		2		
9:10	4	1		
	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>
Totals { for 24th	72	12	4	2
	80%	13.3%	4.5%	2.2%
Totals { for all days at Snarelys	263	48	12	2
	80.9%	14.8%	3.7%	0.6%

We somehow managed to trap the only two atrata seen this morning.

The Snarelys showed considerable interest in banding rosy finches, so I will attempt to get them in touch with the right people to facilitate this.





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 24

Nederland, Tolland, Rollinsville, Boulder, Colorado

address: Rev. Donald L. Snavely

Nederland Community Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 437

Nederland, Colorado 80465

Don & Terrie have 7 children: Marilyn (17), Karen (15), Phyllis (13), Daniel (12), Janice (10), John (6), & Mark (4½).

I drove to Tolland to see if I could catch some additional australis but Elsie Johnson was not home and I saw no rosy finches. I returned to Rollinsville & visited Mrs. Crow who lives in the house where I noted rosy finches on March 20. She said she hadn't seen any today. We did see a flock of 30 fly by to the se. She said the first birds arrive in mid November but no large flocks until later on.

I returned to Boulder to see Kathy & buy more bird feed, etc.

Adenda: It was 18°F at 6:30 AM in Nederland.

3 capture birds died - (2 tephrocotis, 1 campestris).

March 25

Boulder to South Park to Poncha Pass, Colorado

Camped on the front truck seat. Fed & watered birds before 8 AM, saw Kathy & Carl & received a card from Mike Hess indicating he had 11 atrata, 2 tephrocotis &



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969March 25 Boulder to South Park to Poncha Pass, Colorado

1 littoralis for me. Finally left Boulder at a little of 1 PM & drove to Denver for Dry Ice. Next drove to South Park & stopped at the 1st ranch south of Jefferson which is the headquarters of the South Park Cattle Company (#2 location of my Jan-Feb Colorado trip). I saw 1 atrata in the corrals so I ran & got my gun. When I returned it was gone. Instead I saw & collected 4 tephrocotis, 1 australis, & 1 littoralis between 5 PM & 5:30 PM. I talked to the manager of the company for awhile about rebellious college students, politics & the local cattle funds in South Park & then drove on to location 3 where I collected 4 tephrocotis by shooting down cliff swallow nests inside a barn. Data below:

<u>Time</u>	<u>T B</u>
8:05 PM	36.2°C
8:17	35.4
8:43	34.2
8:50	37.2

I again visited barn 3A & found 3 rosy finches roosting as well as a few Starlings (less than on the previous visit on March 22). Data follows:

<u>Time</u>	<u>T B</u>	<u>race</u>
7:32 PM	36.2°	<u>australis</u>
7:37 PM	37.2	<u>tephrocotis</u>
7:42 PM	38.4	<u>atrata</u>

I drove on to Poncha Pass area & spent the night



## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 25 Boulder to South Park to Poncha Pass, Colorado  
in the same location as on March 21.

March 26 Poncha Pass To Saguache to Wolfe Creek Pass to Durango to  
Grand Junction, Colorado & on to Price, Utah area

Completed feeding & watering my zoo at 8:25 AM. There was one dead Tephrocotis collected in Nederland. Drove over the pass & into San Luis Valley, stopping at ranches no. & so. of Alder. Stopped again at the Bagwell Ranch at 8:45 AM. No rosy finches present. Saw English Sparrows, Maggies, Starlings & Mtn Bluebirds. Went on to the next ranch we had visited on March 22 (7.0 mi. s. of Alder) and saw Maggies, Ravens, English Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Mtn. Bluebirds & Horned Larks. There were only two rosy finches which I collected (both Tephrocotis) at <sup>9:45 AM.</sup> ~~9:45 AM.~~ The ground was much drier & there is very little snow left in this part of the valley. South of here the drive is not through likely rosy finch country (no snow). The road climbs again from Monte Vista to Wolfe Creek Pass (10,850) & there was 50% snow cover on the valley floor at South Fork. I stopped at a couple ranches & saw only one bird - a Song Sparrow - at 11:45 AM.

Continued driving on west up toward Wolf Creek Pass & encountered a flock of 12 rosy finches along the roadside. All were Brown-capped Rosy Finches & 2 of these were collected at 12:20 PM. The location was 6.0



## Journal

K.E. Johnson  
1969

March 26

Poncha Pass, Colorado to Price, Utah area (cont.)

highway miles e. of Wolf Creek Pass on US Hwy 160. The country was generally timbered except for the road right-of-way. Snow was 1-2 feet deep & no bare ground except at roadside. Sunny, warm, partly cloudy.

The scenery around the pass & down the San Juan River to the west was excellent (took several photos). I stopped at the first ranch on the floor of the valley after I descended & promptly got stuck in the mud.

All the king's horses & all the king's men & one International Scout pulled it <sup>(the GMC truck)</sup> out. Birds included

Maggies, Ravens, Red-winged Blackbirds & a Hairy Woodpecker. I reached Pagosa Springs (7108 ft.) at 2 PM & saw Western Bluebirds & Robins. At a ranch west of town I saw Ravens, Crows, Maggies, Starlings, Oregon Juncos, Western Bluebirds, Red-winged Blackbirds & English Sparrows. I believe there were also Mtn Bluebirds

along the roadside but can't be certain. Reached Durango at 4 PM and turned north on US 550

through Silverton (9302 ft.), which lies isolated high & isolated — between Molas Divide (10910) & Red Mtn Pass (11018 ft.). Everything was buried in snow & beautiful through this section of Colorado. Took many pictures but saw no rosy finches. It was dark by the time I reached Ouray. Mountains of the La Platta & San Juan ranges surely have breeding populations of rosy finches judging from the rugged





## Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 26

Poncha Pass, Colorado to Price, Utah area (cont.)

terrain above timberline. I continued north through Montrose & Delta to Grand Junction, then west on US 6 & 50 through Price, Utah & camped by the roadside east of Soldier Pass.

March 27

Price, Utah area to Berkeley, California

Birds fed & watered & on my way at 7:30 AM. Noted Starlings on Soldier Pass. Continued north toward Provo to Springville & then turned sw through Eureka, Utah to Baker, Nevada where I picked up 11 atrata, 2 tephrocotis & 1 littoralis which Mike Hess collected for me at Bacchus, Utah for me on March 19, 1969. Actually the birds were collected by a fireman, John Murray, on the grounds of the Hercules Powder Company. Mike had made a special trip up there ~~since~~ immediately after my visit to him in Baker on March 18 & he had gotten Murray to obtain the birds in a burlap bag. I left Mike with 6 Colorado caught birds (3 littoralis & 3 tephrocotis) to use for Zugmruhe studies. I later recalled that King & Wales had shown that this does not occur in Leucosticte. The drive across Nevada was especially beautiful today because of the clear sky, silvery mountain peaks, gushing streams where there were usually dry washes & large lakes where there were usually dry lake bed deserts. Slept beside the road



## Journal.

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 27

Price, Utah area to Berkeley, Calif.

for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours near Davis, Calif., then continued in to Berkeley arriving at 4 AM rather bleary eyed & wishing I had not spent 3 hours with Mike Hess earlier that day, even though that visit had been very profitable. He had suggested several good references on determining plumage color ~~the~~ ~~had~~ ~~passed~~ among other things. Now I only need 20 hours sleep to catch up!



# Journal

R.E. Johnson  
1969

March 30

## Bay Farm Island

Cool, sunny, scattered clouds, breeze from the west off the bay. I drove out to Bay Farm Island in the afternoon, arriving at 3:30 PM, just to get some fresh air, sun, & relaxation without the pressures of purpose & time limitations. I stopped beside a stretch of estuary between Bay Farm & Alameda Islands where there were many ducks in the water. The tide appears to be in & no shore birds were initially apparent. Scaup were the most abundant duck, but there were also some Ruddy Ducks floating singly near the raft of Scaup & a few Mallards (~~♂s~~) on an island of salicornia. A few coots were in the area & a few females & 2 males Red-breasted Mergansers were toward the far side of the estuary. Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds & Gulls flew over regularly. A Killdeer ran in short bursts here & there on a green lawn feeding. W.C. Sparrows, a Golden-crowned Sparrow & a Brewer's Blackbird fed along the uncut margins. Back in the estuary I noticed a single male Bufflehead, a Canada Goose (a smaller race) & several Canvasbacks. A Meadowlark sang from a phone wire behind me. The goose floated alone and gradually came toward me looking me over thoroughly until he was much closer than any of the others had been, finally he turned & sailed away but still never fully turned his back on me. He seemed to have a favorite cove in the salicornia where he liked to feed & float. Two Barn Swallows flew high above the water calling then dropped close to the water & flew there irregular courses.



## Journal

R. E. Johnson  
1969

March 30 Bay Farm Island

The goose returned for a second look & several ~~loose~~ Ruddy Ducks came closer now. Never have I seen the metallic light ~~blue~~ blue bills of the males more clearly. A Pintail (♂) appeared beyond them. Suddenly the goose took flight with a light squack which ended as soon as it began. Twice I imagined I saw a small grebe disappearing below the surface but if so it must have been trying to escape the sunshine for constant watching never found it in full view. Across the road on the golf course Robins stood poised <sup>as if</sup> ready to pounce & then suddenly ran in short bursts <sup>while</sup> Brewers Blackbirds walked more deliberately & slowly. House Finches were common in the trees and a single Mockingbird was seen. It twice pursued & displaced a male Robin from its feeding place but proved no match for the robin's speed of flight. A single Water Pipit fed on the lawn. Several Mourning Doves flew over & landed on a phone wire. The ~~golfer's~~ <sup>golfer's</sup> streamed by, mostly making drives that covered no more distance than a put. This hole must be averaging 12 strokes! With any luck at all, it looks like 3 strokes would handle it nicely.

At 5 PM I stopped near the draw bridge at Meritland St. where there was an exposed mud flat. A Willet fed in the shallow water & a Black-bellied Plover (in molt to black belly) fed slowly on the exposed mud. A Pied-billed Grebe floated a short distance off shore. Two Arcoets swished





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their bills along moving parallel to the shore in shallow water a yard off shore. One Dowitcher stood <sup>on one leg</sup> with bill tucked under wing & another probed in the mud. A Long-billed Curlew could be seen down the shoreline. A Dunlin lit & probed briefly, then flew on. In the other direction an army of Western Sandpipers probed a mud flat.



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April 11

Berkeley, Calif. to Peavine Mtn., Nevada & Squaw Valley, Calif.

Left Berkeley at 11:30 AM in a UC station wagon & drove straight through to Reno over Interstate 80. Bought gas & a few groceries and then drove to the mine shaft on Peavine Mtn where I captured live birds on Feb. 16, arriving at 3:30 PM. There is no snow remaining on the <sup>lower</sup> south slope of the mountain and the road ~~is~~ ground is very dry allowing me to drive all the way to the mine shaft. The Sierras to the west are deep & glistening with snow but only 2 very small snow patches can be seen high on Peavine Mtn as viewed from the mine. Other patches can be seen from the highway, & from Reno it appears that the north slope may have some snow. Still the impression is one of dry midsummer in sagebrush country, — hardly where one would expect to find rosy finches. The sky is clear, the sun very warm, but the air temp. is cool ( $18^{\circ}\text{C}$  in shade). I threw many rocks down the shaft & got no response. During the next couple hours I occasionally heard a Say's Phoebe in the nearby Ponderosa pine and once a yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Three cycles road up the road beside the barbed wire fence to the east. Patches of flowering (white to deep pink) Onion decorated the stoney ground. I took several pictures of these & the shafts. At 5:45 PM the sun was still up but its intensity began to decrease due to the haze in the west. An Antelope Ground Squirrel dashed across the tailings pile beside the mine. The sun completely disappeared below the horizon at 6:01 PM. It's still quite light however & rosy finches could be feeding in the sun in other locations. The



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Higher parts of Peavine Mtn. are still in the sun. Local weather data  $71^{\circ}\text{F}$  max &  $29^{\circ}\text{F}$  min. in Reno. Mosquitos are common on Peavine Mtn after sunset! Left the shaft at 6:20 PM while it was still light enough to drive out over the rough road by natural light. It seems very unlikely that rosy finches would return to the shaft later than this.

I drove around to the north side of the mtn & up the road to the summit. The road was open (no locked gate) and freshly plowed. Road cuts were up to six feet. The road over to the mine shaft near the top had not been plowed & since it was 7:30 PM I didn't hike over to shaft but planned to revisit it on a subsequent day. Drove back to Squaw Valley & slept in the car.

April 12 Squaw Valley, Calif. & Peavine Mtn, Nevada

Clouds pouring in over the ridge from the west & high winds. Some lifts including the Gondola lift were not opened because of the wind. I rode the Cable Car up the mtn & then snowshoed from there <sup>(arrived at 11 AM.)</sup> to the top of Emigrant Pk. Subsequently I followed the main ridges north & south hunting for rosy finches feeding on the snow or in bare areas & snow edges. The snow was deep (up to 10+ ft.) on the east side of the ridge ~~but~~ but blown free along the ridge top & in many places down the west slope. It was in the latter areas that I saw & collected birds two years



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Squaw Valley, Calif., & Peavine Mtn., Nevada

ago but later in the season. Today the wind made hiking difficult & probably also would prevent rosy finches from feeding here. Plants (with one exception) were not even beginning to turn green & resume obvious growth or activity. Finally I crossed the ridge again onto the east slope & stumbled onto a pair of feeding rosy finches on a patch of bare ground about half down from the top of the Emigrant lift toward the Shirley Lake lift. The latter was operating & very busy so that collecting was a bit inadvisable but I tried it anyway & obtained both birds. Another was seen feeding further down toward the Shirley Lift & would have been impossible to collect without being seen & heard. I snowshoed down past the top of the Gondola Lift where I met Carol (Denny's old roommate) & then hiked (no snowshoes) down to the valley on the ski runs. In route I met a ski instructor who knew some bird watchers & was familiar with rosy finches. He (Paul Arthur) said to contact him & he'd get me free tickets up the mtn. when I wanted to go up next!

Drove back to Reno & up to the top of Peavine Mtn (left Squaw at 4 PM & arrived on top at 5:15 PM). Hiked over snow (1-4 ft deep) to the shaft. The ground around the shaft was completely bare (windblown), but the shaft was ~~to~~ totally obstructed by snow about 6 feet down. There were no rosy finches present & no doubt none could use it in this condition.





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April 12 Squaw Valley, Calif. & Peavine Mtn, Nevada

I wonder if the birds only appear at the lower shaft after the upper one is plugged??! Of course now there are none at either location.

Drove back to Squaw Valley & ice skated. Many (5) Berkeley skaters showed up! Tomorrow morning I may try snowshoeing up Mt. Rose if the weather permits.

April 13 Squaw Valley, Calif. to Berkeley, Calif.

Beautiful clear weather in the morning, cloudy in the afternoon. I drove to the pass (8930 ft.) on the Mt. Rose Road and hiked over the snow west then northwest for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  map miles following a ridge top to & beyond its high point (9880 ft.). Beyond this point the route looked a bit depressing. I had climbed nearly 1000 ft & now I would have to descend half of that & then reascend another 1000 ft.. This would be followed by another descend (700 + ft.) and another climb of 1000 ft. feet. Ordinarily this would have been an invigorating thought, but now it was not. I have had little real exercise all winter & suddenly I had started in by ice skating hard plus yesterday's snowshoeing & all this had taken its toll. I felt much too tired at this early stage in the climb to contemplate continuing at the same pace all day & that would be necessary to complete the trip in the daylight leaving time to look for rosy finches. Also my face was already burnt to a crisp from the sun & wind yesterday & today's radiation load was



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Squaw Valley to Berkeley, Calif.

even greater. With all this in mind I contented myself to visually explore quicker & more direct routes to Mt. Rose, take a few pictures & then hike back to the car. I drove back to Squaw Valley & attempted to ice skate. This confirmed my impressions that I was indeed very tired. I then drove back to Berkeley, arriving at 8 PM.



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May 25 Briones Regional Park

Drove from Berkeley via Tilden Park and arrived at 3:00 PM. Clear warm day. Hiked straight up the dirt road up canyon to the divide & then turned north following various ridges & fire trails north & west again. Retraced the route with small deviations to the divide & followed the road down the east side to a paved road. Returned again to the divide and returned to the car at 6:30 PM. Could see the moth-ball fleet & etc very clearly today. Rather unusually clear & beautiful. Most of the area I passed through is grassland, but there are extensive areas of brush on the north slopes of many ridges & there are trees along the canyon bottoms & lower north slopes. The primary purpose of the hike was to get some sun & exercise but the following birds were noted: Lark Sparrow, Brown Towhee, Rufous-sided Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, House Finch (pair building nest 3 ft. above ground in thistle in grassland on so. slope), Horned Lark, Meadow lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, Plain Titmouse (one had nest in end of hollow rotten branch of oak tree, 20 ft. above ground), Bush Tit, Western Bluebird, Red-winged Blackbird, Sparrow Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Valley Quail, Mourning Dove, Raven, Calif. Jay, Orange-crowned Warbler, Violet-Green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, White-throated Swift, Wren Tit, Oregon Junco





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